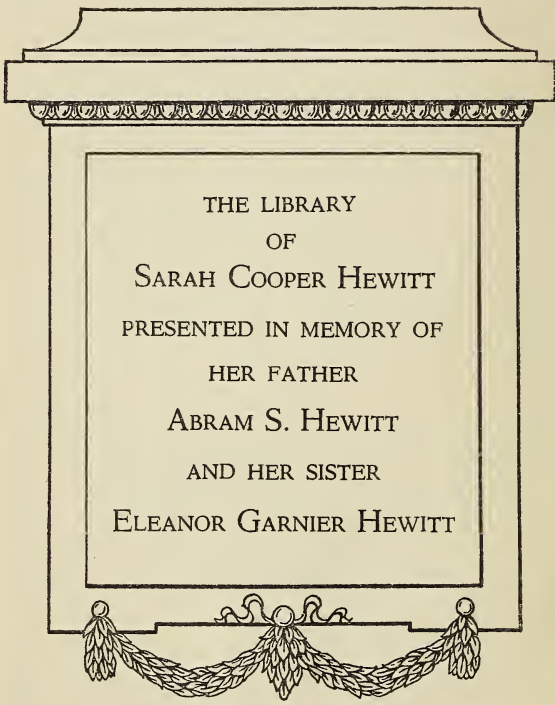




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A
BIOGRAPHICAL
DICTIONARY
OF THE
CELEBRATED WOMEN
OF
EVERY AGE AND COUNTRY.

By MATILDA BETHAM.

London :

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P R E F A C E.

SOME years since I began to collect the materials, from which the following work is composed, not according to any predetermined plan of compilation, nor even with a serious design of presenting them to the public. But my collection was increased, as my reading was extended; and I was induced to believe, that a General Dictionary of Women, who had been distinguished by their actions or talents, in various nations, or at different periods of the world, digested under an alphabetical arrangement, which had never been done in our language, might meet with a favourable reception.

Under this impression, I put forth, in the year 1801, proposals for publishing my projected work, in four volumes, octavo. But this intention had not been long announced, before advertisements appeared of another work being in the press, under a similar title. Not meaning to run a race with any other author, I desisted for a while from my undertaking. But when, upon the publication of that work, I found it to be rather a selection of historical extracts, than a digested compilation of Female Biography,

phy, which it had been, and is now, my object to produce ; I resumed my original idea of publishing, although upon a more contracted scale than I had before designed *.

The book, which now, with much diffidence, I submit to the public judgement, must have many claims on their indulgence ; most, in those parts, certainly, where I have hazarded original criticism, or observation. For the rest, authenticity, and impartiality, have been my aim throughout, conceiving those principles to be of more consequence in a work of this kind, than ornamental writing.

I have had communications and assistance from several friends, and have made liberal use of the aid afforded me in *Le Dictionnaire des Femmes Célèbres* : which, however, I had never seen till after the greatest part of my own materials was collected ; and, in all such cases, I have, to avoid repetition, marked the articles with the initials F. C. only. To other quotations I have noted the authority more at length.

Dec. 1803.

M. BETHAM.

* In one instance alone, I undesignedly extended the article to an undue length.

BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY

OF

CELEBRATED WOMEN.

ABASSA, *an Arabian Princess of the Eighth Century,*

SISTER of the famous Caliph Haroun-al-Raschid; who thought so highly of her wit, accomplishments, and beauty, that he lamented he was her brother, believing no other husband could be found worthy of her. To sanction, however, a wish he had of conversing, at the same time, with the two most enlightened people he knew, he married her to Giaffer, his visier, on condition, that they should see each other only in his presence. This law they transgressed; and Abassa had a son, who was privately sent to Mecca. But the fatal secret remained not long unknown to the Caliph, who was so transported with rage, that he ordered, not only the execution of Giaffer, but, that none might remain, who could boast an alliance with the blood of Ali, of his whole family also, the amiable and beneficent Barmecides, whose death was long deplored as a public calamity.

It is uncertain what befel Abassa: some say she was shut up in a dungeon, where she died of grief; others, that she was driven from the palace, and reduced to extreme want. Probability is in favour of the first account. Abassa had a fine poetical genius.

F. C. Notes to the Knights of the Swan, by Madame Genlis, &c.

ACCA LAURENTIA, *Nurse of Romulus and Remus,*

WIFE of the shepherd Faustulus, was deified by the Romans, who instituted a yearly sacrifice to her honour.

ACCIAIUOLI, (MADELEINE SALVETTI) *an Italian Poetess. Died 1610.*

THE wife of a gentleman of Florence, who was no less celebrated for her attachment to polite literature, to which she devoted great part of her time, than for her virtue, exquisite beauty, and the fine taste which was conspicuous in her poetical works. Two volumes in quarto were published at Florence in 1590, principally consisting, according to the custom of the age, particularly in France and Italy, of poems in praise of the grand duke and duchess. She left an unfinished epic poem, entitled *David persecuted*.

F. C. &c.

ADORNI, (CATHERINE FIESCHI). *Born at Genoa, 1447. Died 1510.*

AUTHOR of two books of great repute, one on *Purgatory*, and the other, *A Dialogue between the Soul and the Body*, is said to have treated, in a very judicious manner, difficult theological subjects, though not learned. She was of a good family, and the wife of a Genoese nobleman, whose strange temper she suffered many years with great patience. She was a religious enthusiast; and used to have fits, or ecstasies, in which she usually spoke in verse, though she never composed in it at other times: but, a taste for poetry, which made her frequently get passages by heart, uncertain health, and a too lively imagination, may easily account for what then appeared miraculous.

F. C.

ADRICHOMIA,

ADRICHOMIA, (CORNELIA) *a Dutch Nun of the Sixteenth Century.*

DAUGHTER of a gentleman in Holland, and a nun of the order of St. Augustin. She distinguished herself by her talent for poetry, which she exercised only on religious subjects; one of which was, *A Version of the Psalms of David.*

Female Worthies, &c.

AFRA, *Martyr in Crete, during the Dioclesian Persecution.*

A Pagan and courtezan, Afra had no sooner heard the gospel preached, than she was struck with horror at her past life. She confessed her sins, and was baptized; but her former lovers, enraged that they could no longer obtain admission at her house, denounced her as a Christian. She was examined, confessed her faith before the judge with firmness, and was burnt alive. Her mother and three servants, who had shared her crimes and her repentance, were arrested, as they watched at her tomb, and suffered the same punishment.

F. C.

AGALIS, or AGATHIS,

A Woman of the island of Corfu, whose knowledge is highly spoken of by ancient authors. She excelled principally in rhetoric and grammar. It is said she composed some treatises on these subjects. Meursius, in his work on Grecian games, attributes the invention of a play at ball to her.

F. C. &c.

AGATHA, *a Sicilian Martyr*, A. D. 251,

WAS of a noble family at Palermo. Her beauty inspired Quintius, governor of Sicily, under the emperor Decius, with the most violent love: and, being a Christian, he employed not only intreaties, but menaces, to seduce her; till, wearied out by the obstinacy of her virtue, he thought only of vengeance. Her body was cruelly mangled, and afterwards rolled on burning coals and broken potsherds. She was then carried back to die in prison: and her name is still ranked in the list of saints in the Roman calendar.

F. C.

AGNES,

CANONIZED in the Romish church, whose history is at present nearly lost in obscurity. Some particulars are, however, related, which bear much affinity to the preceding article.

AGNES, *Wife of Andrew III. King of Hungary*. Died 1364.

THE daughter of Albert, emperor of Germany. She distinguished herself by her address and political abilities; but appears to have had more of Machiavelian policy, than true greatness of mind. After the death of her father, she resided in Switzerland, where her finesse was of great service to her brother Albert II. with whom these people were at war.

F. C.

AGNEZI, (MARIA GAETANA).

A Celebrated female mathematician, on whom a Pope, equally distinguished for his understanding and knowledge, Benedict XIV. bestowed the place of Apostolical Professor,

Professor, in the university of Bologna, in 1758. She was the daughter of a creditable tradesman in Milan, and famed for her knowledge of the scholastic languages; and a profound treatise on analysis, which, besides eulogies, transmitted to her from all scientific societies, obtained her the professorship. She had an inclination, from her childhood, to enter into the austere order of the blue nuns; and, after the death of her father, who was averse to it, pursued this intention, and sacrificed, to what she considered her duty, all those enjoyments, to which her fine qualities and literary acquirements had already made her way. A translation of her work, by the name of *Analytical Institutions*, we have understood is speedily to be published.

Observations sur l'Italie.

AGREDA, (MARY DE) of *Agreda, in Spain*. Born 1602, died 1665.

SUPERIOR of a convent of nuns, founded by her mother. She supposed herself commanded and inspired by God, to write the *History of the Virgin Mary*. She accordingly began; but an enlightened confessor, who supplied the place of her own, during a short absence, desired her to desist, and burn what she had written. She obeyed; but, on the return of the other, was persuaded to re-commence the work; and, on her death, she gave a written attestation, that all had been revealed to her by the Almighty. The Inquisition at Madrid, after mature consideration, permitted her books to be printed, which they were, first in that city, and afterwards at Lisbon, at Perpignan, and at Antwerp. With all their strange and wild conceits, they had influence enough to disturb, for a long time, the peace of three kingdoms, Spain, France, and Italy. The Inquisition

tion at Rome was not so favourable as that at Madrid; and this cause, in which the king of Spain interfered, without effect, was transferred to the Sorbonne, where the works of Mary de Agreda were finally condemned, notwithstanding the opposition of the head of the Jesuits, and the whole body of Cordeliers, who were strong partisans of this visionary.

F.C.

AGRIPPINA, a Roman Lady. Died A. D. 33.

DAUGHTER of M. Vipsanius Agrippa, and of Julia, daughter of Augustus, is famous for her pride, ambition, courage, and above all, for her fidelity and love to her husband Germanicus. Formed to be the wife of an hero, Agrippina accompanied him wherever he went, sharing his dangers and his toils. She was seen often at the head of armies, appeasing the seditious, encouraging the soldiers, and filling all the functions of the most able general. Germanicus dying in Spain, Agrippina, having shown her tenderness by her tears, attacked Piso, who was suspected of having poisoned him, forced him to destroy himself, and returned to Rome, bearing the ashes of her husband in a sepulchral urn. Tiberius, who had been jealous of the glory of Germanicus, was pained by the high reputation of his widow, and banished her to the island of Pandatiere. Always proud, even in the bosom of misfortune, she reproached him to his face, with his injustice and cruelties. This tyrant commanded a centurion to strike the grand-daughter of Augustus, which was done with such violence, that she lost one of her eyes. Reduced to despair by this outrage, she abstained from food, and died in the fifth year of her exile. The rage of Tiberius was not appeased by the death of Agrippina: he persecuted her

her even in her children, and ordered the day of her birth to be numbered amidst the unhappy ones.

F. C. Roman History.

AGRIPPINA, (JULIA) *the Younger, daughter of the preceding. Died A. D. 59.*

WAS born in the city of the Ubii, from her called Colonia Agrippina, at present Cologne, and educated by her grandmother Antonia, who saw, with sorrow, the children of Germanicus contaminated with the most odious and horrible vices. With all the pride and ambition of her mother, Julia Agrippina inherited none of her good qualities; but, unrestrained by any principle, she employed, without shame or remorse, every charm of person, and power of intellect, to the purpose of her own aggrandizement. She was married, first to Domitius Ænobarbus, by whom she was mother of Nero: and, after his death, her irregular conduct was so notorious, that she suffered public penance, and was banished, by her brother Caligula, to the island of Pontia, on a charge of treason. On the succession of Claudius, the sentence was repealed, and she returned to Rome to pursue again her intrigues and cabals. She married, secondly, Crispus Passienus, a patrician of great wealth, which was soon all her own, as he lived but a very short time after their union. One object only now remained for her ambition, the imperial crown; and she accordingly practised so successfully upon the weakness of the emperor, that, though his niece, he married her, and in his name she held the reins of government. Claudius had a son; but Agrippina had one also, that she was determined should succeed him; and, for this purpose she obtained every honour and advantage for Nero, while the other was kept back from any thing that might give him con-

sequence, or gain him popularity. Claudius at length was made sensible of his situation, and of the more than profligacy of her character; but he had no power to free himself from her toils, and some words which were spoken by him unguardedly, when heated with wine, being reported to the empress, she thought it unsafe to spare him any longer, and he was accordingly poisoned by her orders.

Agrippina had attained the point for which she had waded through seas of blood and dishonour; and she now played her part with much policy. The death of Claudius was kept secret, and the young prince retained within the palace, till Nero was proclaimed emperor. This darling son seated upon the throne, she still expected to govern with the same sway; but Nero, though at first he treated her with great respect, soon learned to consider the consequence she assumed, as an encroachment upon his authority. Notwithstanding her artifice, her threats, and remonstrances, Agrippina felt her influence gone. Her son took away her guards, and assigned her, instead of her magnificent palace, a mean house in the suburbs, where people were stationed to mortify and insult her. By the force of her natural eloquence, she, however, contrived again to rise into favour; but a reconciliation between hearts so depraved, who feared and knew each other, could not be lasting; and distrust soon created a wish in Nero to rid himself, by any means, of one whom he hated.

He began, by affecting a more than common tenderness, and invited her to his villa at Baïæ, by a very kind letter, expecting she would have gone by sea, as a galley had been sent for the purpose, and so contrived, that the part appropriated to her accommodation might be separated from the other, and sunk at any given time. Some dark intimations of danger, however, had put

Agrippina

Agrippina upon her guard, and she went by land; but the honour he paid her, and the affection he showed during her visit, so lulled every suspicion, that she was persuaded, as it was a fine night, to return in the vessel prepared.

Sleeping in a bed upon the poop, at a given signal, Agrippina, and a lady with her, began to sink gently into the waves, for the parts had not been adjusted nicely enough to perform their office properly; and many of the crew, not knowing the intentions of the emperor, attempted to save them. Agrippina, whose presence of mind never deserted her, though dismayed, kept a profound silence; but the lady, from her crying out, was mistaken for the empress, and killed by a blow from one of the creatures of Anicetus, the commander of the galley. In the mean time her mistress, receiving no other hurt than a slight wound upon the shoulder, was taken up by a bark.

In the midst of these suspicions and dangers, Agrippina forgot not her interest:—she dispatched a messenger to inform the emperor of her safety, though she was at no loss to divine whence her peril had proceeded, and took measures to secure the fortune of the lady who had perished to herself.

Nero, alarmed at the failure of his project, saw no safety for him, but in her immediate death, and dispatched Anicetus, with a written order for that purpose. His mother, uneasy at the non-appearance of her messenger, who was imprisoned by Nero, was in bed when her house was surrounded by the creatures of Anicetus, who proceeded, with three men, to her chamber, from whence her women fled, and she began to feel that her last hour was come. Yet still she thought it her interest to dissemble. “If you come,” said she, “to learn the state of my health, you may tell my son that I am well

well; but, if it be to murder me, I will never believe that he commanded it."

As she finished these words, the assassins came round the bed, and one of them gave her a blow on the head with a truncheon; and Agrippina, at length driven to despair, had no measures to keep—and looking fiercely on Anicetus, who was preparing to destroy her with his sword, she cried, "Strike this womb, and punish it for giving birth to thy master."

Thus fell a woman whose life was one continued crime; whom adversity did not either amend or terrify; and whose evil genius was never lulled to sleep, even by the attainment of its purposes.

F. C. Roman History.

AIROLA, (DONNA ANGELA).

A Nun of Genoa, who learnt design and colouring of Sarezana. In her own monastery, and in several churches, she painted many admirable works.

Abecedario Pittorico.

AISHA, or AYESHA, *third Wife of Mahomet. Died 671, aged 67.*

THE daughter of Abdallah, afterwards caliph, from her named Abubeker, *Father of the Girl*; since Mahomet, whose two first wives were widows, married her when she was very young; and, as she had a fine understanding, caused her to be instructed in all the learning of the Arabs, so that she became both eloquent and accomplished, and had such influence over the mind of her husband, that, though she was accused of infidelity by many, particularly by Ali, a kinsman of Mahomet's, and one whom he had distinguished by the name of the *Faithful Witness*, he would not resolve to part with her; but composed a chapter in the Koran, to declare her innocence

nocence, and assure his followers that all reports to the contrary were calumnies.

Her authority was very great among the Mahometans. After the death of their chief, they called her the *Prophetess*, and *Mother of the Faithful*. She was the living oracle of the sect, which consulted her in all difficult points, in order to learn what had been the sense of their legislator. Her answers were received as oracles, and have always passed since as authentic traditions amongst them. All those which compose their Sunna, were, according to them, from Aisha, or from some one of the ten companions of Mahomet: but Aisha's authority is esteemed the most authentic.

With respect to the government of the state, she took upon herself to condemn the caliph Othman, of impiety; though she afterwards made war with Ali, whom she had twice before disappointed of the caliphate, to revenge his death, and marched against him at the head of thirty thousand men. She was, however, defeated, taken prisoner by Ali, and afterwards sent back by him to Medina, where she died, under the caliphate of Moawiah, and was buried with her husband.

D'Herbelot's Dictionaire Orientale, &c.

AISHA, *a Native of Damas, who is honoured by Mus-
sulmen with the title of Doctor,*

WROTE a book on the fear with which the mercies of God ought to inspire us.

Ibid.

AISHA, *a Poetess of Spain, during the Time the
Moors had Possession of that Kingdom, who flourished
at the End of the Twelfth Century.*

AT this time, the Moors cultivated every species of polite literature with success, while the rest of Europe

was

was sunk in ignorance and sloth. Amongst the women, who particularly distinguished themselves, was this lady, daughter of the duke Ahmedi, so that "she was honoured and esteemed by kings." Her poems and orations were frequently read with applause in the Royal Academy of Corduba. She was a virtuous character, lived unmarried, and left behind her many monuments of her genius, and a large and select library.

Bibliotheca Arabico Hispaniæ Escorialensis.

ALANKAVA, *Grand-daughter of the King of the Mongols, of the Dynasty of Kiat, in Northern Asia,*

MARRIED her cousin-german, Doujoun, who was then upon the throne, by whom she had two sons. After the death of her husband, she governed her territories, and brought up her children with great prudence. A miraculous history concerning this princess, which was probably first invented to do honour to the great families descended from her, is believed in all these countries. As the leading features are taken from the birth of our Saviour, it might induce one to believe, that the northern nations formerly professed Christianity.

New Biographical Dictionary. F. C.

ALBEMARLE, (ANNE CLARGES) *Duchess of,*

WAS the daughter of a blacksmith; and her mother was a female barber, by whom she was brought up a milliner. During the confinement of general Monk in the Tower, she officiated as his sempstress, and became first his mistress, and afterwards his wife. He had so high an opinion of her understanding, that he consulted her in the most important concerns; and, as she was a thorough loyalist, it is supposed she contributed greatly to bring about

about the Restoration. It is said, she afterwards carried on a very lucrative trade in selling offices. A bitter enemy to lord Clarendon, she prevailed on her husband to assist in the ruin of that great man, though one of his best friends. She was a woman of vulgar manners, homely person, and violent temper.

Ibid.

ALBERT, (JANE D') *Daughter of Albert II. King of Navarre, and Margaret de Valois. Died 1572, aged 44.*

WAS contracted, while a child, to the duke of Cleves, by her uncle, Francis I. king of Navarre; but, as this marriage was disagreeable to the young princess, as well as to many of her friends, the Pope was afterwards prevailed upon to cancel it, though the ceremony had been performed.

At twenty years of age, she was married to Anthony de Bourbon, duke de Vendome, by whom she had three sons. The two first dying in consequence of the improper management and carelessness of their nurses, the king of Navarre was anxious to take the charge of the last upon himself; and prevailed on his daughter, when her time drew near, to leave her husband, whom she had accompanied to the wars in Picardy, and return to him for this purpose.

Jane had been long anxious to see the will of her father. It was in a large gold box, on which was also a chain of gold, that would pass twenty or thirty times round the neck. She asked him to grant her this favour; and he promised it, upon condition, that, on the birth of her infant, she would sing a Bernese song. In the night of the 13th of December, 1553, Henry, afterwards the IVth of France, was born, and Jane had resolution enough to fulfil her engagement, beginning a
little

little hymn to the Virgin, as her father entered the room. The latter took the chain of gold from his neck, and gave her the box which contained his will, saying, "These are for you, my daughter; but this is mine!" putting the child under his robe, and carrying it to his chamber.

On the death of Albert II. in 1555, she became queen of Navarre; and, in unison with her husband, showed all the countenance the spirit of the times would permit, to the reformed religion, which then began to gain ground. This predilection was, however, so apparent, that it gave great offence, particularly to the court of France, which they visited in 1558, to do away by their presence the impressions received against them. Yet, the conduct of Anthony did not favour this purpose: his zeal seemed daily to increase, till Jane, on whom the pleasures of the French court had made a great impression, remonstrated with him on his want of caution, and urged the sacrifices such a line of conduct might oblige them to make.

He was not to be persuaded; but the mind, which then worldly prudence could not influence, was afterwards seduced by ambition, and the deep policy of Catherine de Medicis. This weak prince, after openly breaking with the French court, declaring for the Protestants, and putting himself at their head, was led, by visionary prospects of advantage, to desert their cause, and join with their persecutors.

The zeal of Jane had once suffered a temporary relaxation, but the fascination of pleasure seemed to expire with its novelty, and she was no longer inclined to temporize, much less abjure, her opinions. She resisted all the entreaties of her husband; but his injurious treatment in consequence, soon obliged her to leave him in France, where they then were, and return to her native country. Anthony survived but two years, dying in

1562,

1562, after recanting his recantation, and declaring, that were his life spared, he would further the Protestant interest with more fervour than ever.

The faith and views of Jane were now decided and understood. She provided for the safety of her kingdom, she put her son under the care of a Huguenot professor, and adopted the most vigorous means to preserve her authority against the insurrections of her Catholic subjects, and the menaces of the court of Rome, before which, in 1563, she was in vain cited to appear.

She declared herself, in 1566, the protectress of the Protestants, and went to Rochelle, where she devoted her son to the defence of the reformed religion, and caused medals to be struck, with these words, *a safe peace, a complete victory, a glorious death!* She did every thing in her power for the advancement of the cause of religious liberty; and used to say, that *liberty of conscience ought to be preferred before honours, dignities, and life itself!* She caused the New Testament, the Catechism, and the Liturgy of Geneva, to be translated and printed at Rochelle. She abolished popery, and established protestantism in her own dominions. In her leisure hours, she expressed her zeal by working tapestries with her own hands, in which she represented the monuments of that religious liberty she sought to establish. One suit consisted of twelve pieces: on each was represented some Scripture history of *deliverance*. Israel's coming out of Egypt; Joseph's release from prison, or something of the like kind. On the top of each were these words, *Where the spirit is, there is liberty!* and, in the corners, broken chains, fetters, and gibbets. They were worked in fashionable patterns; and dextrously directed the needles of the ladies to help forward the reformation. Brave and eloquent, Jane neglected nothing that heroism or prudence could dictate. Her jewels were mortgaged, without

without reluctance, for the support of the troops; and a peace, very advantageous to the Protestants, was concluded in 1570.

The court of France then proposed a marriage between Charles the IXth's sister and the young prince, Henry, and pretended that they were going to war with Spain, the implacable enemy of Jane d'Albert. These measures were enforced with the appearance of so much sincerity, that the queen, who long continued doubtful and suspicious, at length yielded, and prepared for the journey to Paris, in May 1572. Her reception was kind and gracious in the extreme; but, after an illness of five days, she died on June 10th, 1572, thus escaping the impending horrors of St. Bartholomew, which proved fatal to many of her best friends. At first, she was thought to have been poisoned; but on opening her body, nothing was found to corroborate the suspicion.

This princess left many writings, both in prose and verse. The greatness of her mind and talents have been acknowledged even by her enemies; and the Protestant religion has seldom had so firm and conscientious a friend. The character and fate of her son is well known. She left, likewise, a daughter, who inherited her mother's heart and talents, and continued faithful to the religion in which she had been instructed.

Jane d'Albert desired to be buried, without pomp, in the tomb of her father.

Letters of St. Foix; New Biog. Dict. &c.

ALDRUDE, *Countess of Bertinoro, in Romagna, an Italian Heroine of the Twelfth Century,*

Of a noble family, the Frangipani, originally from Rome. Aldrude is celebrated for her magnanimity, wit, and politeness. Beautiful and majestic in her person, her mind
seems

seems to have united greatness with elegance; but those qualifications might have remained unknown, had it not been for the exertions she made in favour of the distressed inhabitants of Ancona.

This city, situated upon the Adriatic Sea, had frequently changed masters; but, about the middle of the twelfth century, it became, we know not how, a sort of free republic, under the protection of the Greek emperors, who had a commissary, and, without doubt, some troops, resident there. Being on the sea-coast, the possession of it was of importance, as it afforded them entrance into Italy, where their jealousy of the German emperors, against whom the little states were always revolting, led them to desire a footing. The citizens of Ancona were able seamen, and encroached materially on the trade of Venice. In July, 1167, Frederic I. who knew the cabals of the court of Constantinople against him, undertook the siege of this city; but, having an open sea, and encouraged by the Greeks, the inhabitants made so brave a defence, that the emperor was glad to make peace with them, and raise the siege a few days after.

The same subjects of discontent remaining in 1172, the Venetians agreed to unite their naval powers, with the forces of the emperor Frederic, under the command of the archbishop of Mayence, his lieutenant-general in Italy: the former prevented any thing entering or going out, and the latter blockaded it very closely by land. The inhabitants defended themselves very bravely; but, were reduced to such an extremity by famine, that they at length sent deputies to the archbishop, offering him an immense sum to raise the siege; but he refused them, with insult, saying, “It would be folly to accept a part, when the whole was in his power.” The deputies made

him a spirited reply; but returned disheartened to the city. In the consultations which followed, some were for submitting unconditionally, as was demanded; and others preferred dying sword in hand. An old man, who had lived more than a century, re-animated their courage, by proposing the employment of their treasures in procuring succours from the neighbouring princes: and then, if their applications proved fruitless, he advised them to throw their riches into the sea, and sell their lives as dear as possible.

Deputies were accordingly sent, by some stratagem, through the Venetian fleet, to William degli Adelardi, of Ferrara, and the Countess of Bertinoro, who engaged in the cause, with all that zeal and alacrity, which animates generous minds to aid the distressed.

The archbishop, alarmed at the succours he heard were preparing for the besieged, caused letters, as if from their deputies, to be thrown into the city, saying, they had had success in their negotiations; and, that they must expect no help. Some of the most enlightened of the inhabitants detected the forgery, and calmed the anxious minds of the affrighted populace, by solemnly assuring them they were false.

In the mean time, through many difficulties and interruptions, the troops of the countess Aldrude, and of William Adelardi, advanced, preceded by a standard of cloth of gold. They were composed of twelve squadrons, each of two hundred choice men; and an innumerable multitude of regular and light infantry. They encamped upon a hill, not far from the Archbishop; and when it was night, William ordered his men to place two or more lighted candles at the tops of their pikes and lances. Alarmed, by this means, with the idea, that their number was immense, the Archbishop
drew

drew back a little from the city, to secure a height, that nature had rendered very strong.

William harangued his army, who heard him with loud applause; and, at the close of his speech, Aldrude also came forward, and addressed them as follows:

“ Encouraged and fortified by the favour and mercy of heaven, I have resolved, contrary to the general usage of women, to speak to you here, because I hope to say something that may be useful, though unadorned with the figures of eloquence, and the reasonings of philosophy. It often happens, that a simple discourse acts upon the mind, when one more laboured merely pleases the ear. It is neither a love of power, or worldly advantage, which has led me here. Since the death of my husband, I reign with an aching heart, over all his domains, without any contest. It is enough for me to keep what I possess. What animates me, is the miserable situation of Ancona; the tears of its ladies, who fear to fall into the power of the besiegers. Need I enter into the detail? It is to succour men, worn by famine, fatigued by frequent combats, exposed constantly to new toils, to new dangers, that I come, with my only son, who, though a child, inherits his father's greatness of soul, and shews the same courage and the same zeal for the protection and defence of his friends. And you, warriors of Lombardy and Romagna, who are no less distinguished for your fidelity than your valour, the same cause brings you here. You obey the orders, and imitate the example of William Adelardi, who, listening only to his natural generosity, and love of freedom, has hazarded his own fortune, and that of his friends and vassals, for the deliverance of Ancona, I know not how to praise him as I ought, because language is not equal to the expression

of our thoughts and wishes! We become truly virtuous, only when we prize virtue more than wealth and honour!—This glorious enterprise has, as yet, succeeded, since you have passed through countries occupied by your enemies. But, it is now time that the seed should produce fruit. It is time to make a trial of your strength, since you have occasion to make a trial of your courage. Hence, then, without delay, which enfeebles the minds of most men. Be under arms at the first break of day; so that the rising sun may beam upon the victory, which the Most High promises to your charity. May my prayers draw down a blessing upon you; and, may the sight of those beautiful ladies who accompany me, animate you! If knights are accustomed to display their skill and strength, in cruel combats, for pleasure only; if they expose their lives in honour of scarce-remembered beauty; how much more ought you to make efforts for the victory! you, who by the motive of your enterprise alone, augment the glory of your name, and acquire the esteem of the world? Let not your hands, then, spare the rebels! Be your swords bathed in the blood of those who resist! Indulgence is not for those, who, whilst they can do evil, will not pardon!”

“ This discourse,” says the historian of Aldrude, “ made the battalions flourish like a lily:—they shouted with joy, and danced to the sound of trumpets and tambourines.”

No battle, however, was fought. The Archbishop fled during the night, and all the city came to render thanks to Aldrude and William, and to offer them the most magnificent presents.

The Countess returned, with her guards, to her domains, meeting many detachments of the enemy upon the

the road, with whom they had skirmishes ; but her party always overcame.

F. C.

ALEXANDRA, *Queen of the Jews, Wife of Alexander Janneus, second King of the Jews, of the Asmonean or Maccabean Race, reigned Nine Years. Died, B.C. 70.*

WHEN this king, who had a bloody and turbulent reign, was near death, Alexandra came weeping to him, lamenting the situation of herself and children, exposed, unprotected, to the hatred of the people, who bore so much ill-will towards him. He counselled her to keep his death secret, till she had secured the fortress ; and, then to go to Jerusalem in triumph, as it were upon a victory ; to pay court to the Pharisees, his bitter enemies, who had so much influence over the people, and whom he acknowledged he had injured ; and, promise to undertake nothing without their advice. He advised her, also, to render up his body to them, either to be treated with indignity, or otherwise, as they should think fit : in which case, he assured her he should obtain a more glorious sepulture than she could give him ; and herself, to whom he left the government, and children, would be happy and secure.

Alexandra pursued this counsel, and all succeeded as he had foretold. She had ever appeared averse to the severities of her husband, and therefore easily obtained favour with the people. Her eldest son, Hyrcanus, was inactive, and little formed for reigning ; him she made high-priest : but the Pharisees, under her, had all the power of the state ; and sometimes urged her to revenge them upon the advisers of her late husband, who, on their part, thought themselves aggrieved at the little favour shown them. Her younger

son, Aristobulus, a bold and spirited man, also murmured loudly against her authority, wishing rather to be called to the throne himself. Alexandra appears to have managed these untoward circumstances in the most prudent and conciliatory manner: and to have used every wise precaution to preserve the nation in safety against foreign enemies.

Being a very old woman, she fell into a fit of sickness; during which, Aristobulus, resolving to secure the government, stole away secretly by night, and possessed himself, one by one, of the strongest fortresses, which were held by the enemies of the Pharisees, and former friends of his father. Alexandra, at first missing him, did not suspect his intentions; but they soon became too evident to be mistaken; and, after securing his wife and children in a fortress in the city, Hyrcanus, and the elders of the Jews, waited upon Alexandra, desiring she would give them her opinion on the present posture of affairs, stating that Aristobulus was, in effect, lord of the kingdom, by possessing so many strong holds; and, that it was absurd in them to take counsel among themselves, on the impending danger, however ill she was, while she remained alive. The poor old queen desired them to do what they thought best. They had yet an army, and money in their several treasuries. For her part, she had little concern about public affairs now, when her strength was nearly exhausted. She died soon after she said this, aged seventy-three. She reigned nine years—and had preserved the nation in peace, though Josephus, who allows her great wisdom and sagacity in governing, thinks her management conducted to occasion the troubles which followed her death; but, to this period of the Jewish history, tranquillity appears to have been almost a stranger; and the address of softening the

the horrors of faction, for a time, appears to be justly attributed to Alexandra.

Antiquities of the Jews, &c.

ALICE, *Queen of France, Wife of Louis VII. surnamed the Young, third Daughter of Thibaut the Great, Count of Champagne, &c. Died 1206.*

THIS princess receiving a careful education in the magnificent court of her father, and possessing the natural qualifications of beauty, good-nature, wit, and a fondness for poetry, in which consisted great part of the literature of that age, was much extolled for those advantages; and, independent of allying himself with Thibaut, whom he had found a powerful enemy, and thus detaching him from the interest of the English, already too potent in France, Louis the VIIth, on the death of his second wife, in 1160, saw none equal to Alice in personal charms and character; and accordingly demanded her of her father, who, with his family and nobles, repaired immediately to the court of France, where, soon after, the nuptials were celebrated with great magnificence; and, to cement the union more strongly, two daughters of the king by his first wife, were married also to the two elder sons of the count.

Four years afterwards, in 1165, she had a son, afterwards Philip-Augustus, to the great joy of Lewis, and the nation in general. Tenderly beloved by her husband, whose ill health rendered him unequal to the duties of his station, Alice not only assisted him in conducting the affairs of the nation, but superintended, with affectionate zeal, the education of her son, who afterwards became one of the greatest of the French monarchs. Lewis died in 1180, having appointed Alice
to

to the regency; but the young prince being married to Isabella, of Hainault, niece to the earl of Flanders, the authority was balanced between them, and produced frequent disputes. Philip, at last having sided with the earl, Alice and her brothers were obliged to leave the court. She had recourse to Henry II. of England, who scrupled not to take part with the mother of one that was continually spiriting his sons to acts of rebellion against him. Philip marched against his mother, his uncles, and their protector; but Henry was unwilling to give him battle, and negotiations began, in which the two kings mutually menaced and persuaded. Henry, at last, notwithstanding the advice of the earl of Flanders, reconciled Philip to his mother and her brothers. He also agreed to pay her *sept-livres Parisis*, (five shillings and tenpence English) per day, for her maintenance; and to give up her dower, with the exception only of the fortified places.

This intelligence being established between them, Alice began again to take an active part in the government; and her son was so well satisfied with her conduct, that, in 1190, on going to the Holy Land, he confided, by the advice of his barons, the education of his son, and the regency of the kingdom, to Alice and her brother, the cardinal archbishop of Rheims.

During the absence of the king, some ecclesiastical disturbances happened, which were carried before the pope. The prerogative of Philip was concerned; and the letters of Alice to Rome concerning it, were full of force and grandeur. She remonstrated upon the enormity of taking advantage of an absence caused by such a motive; and demanded, that things should at least be left in the same situation, till the return of her son. By this firmness she obtained her point.

Philip

Philip returned in 1192; and history takes no other notice of Alice afterwards, than to mention some religious foundations. She died at Paris, and was buried at the abbey de Pontigny, founded by her father.

F. C. Histoire de la Rivalite, par M. Gaillard.

ALMUCS, (DONNA).

A Provençal Poetess, born at Chateauneuf.

ALOARA, *an Italian Princess.* Died 992.

DAUGHTER of a count named Peter, of whom history makes no other mention, than that he was her father. She was married to Pandulph, surnamed Iron-head, who stiled himself prince, duke, and marquis. He was, in reality, prince of Capua and Benevento, by inheritance; and the emperor Otho II. created him duke of Spoleto, and marquis Camerino, which rendered him the most potent prince then in Italy. He died at Capua, in 981, leaving five sons by Aloara; Landulph IV. prince of Capua and Benevento; Pandulph, prince of Salerno; Atenulph, entitled count, and also marquis, perhaps of Camerino; Landenulph, prince of Capua; and Lai-dulph, who succeeded him.

Landulph IV. perished in battle, fighting for the emperor, in 982, against the Greeks and Saracens. His brother Landenulph succeeded him; but, being very young, Otho, in investing him with the principality of Capua, desired Aloara might govern during her life conjointly with him. This decree was also confirmed by Theophania, widow of Otho, and regent, during the minority of Otho III. Aloara began to reign in 982.

History

History relates no particular actions of this princess; but says she governed with much wisdom and courage.

Landenulph was assassinated by a plot of his own relations, in 993; and his brother Laidulph, who succeeded, was deposed by the emperor Otho III, in 999, for having a hand in the death of his brother.

It is reported, by an old historian in the life of St. Nil, that Aloara put to death a nephew, lest he should wrest the principality from her son; and, that St. Nil then predicted the failure of her posterity.

F. C.

ALPHAIZULI, (MARIA) *Poetess of Seville, during the Time the Moors had Possession of Spain.*

SHE was called the Arabian Sappho; and excellent works of her composition are in the library of the Escorial. Many Spanish women, her cotemporaries, particularly in the province of Andalusia, cultivated the Muses with success.

F. C.

ALPIS, or ALPAIS, (DE CUDOT) *a pious French Woman, who flourished in the Diocese of Sens, at the End of the Twelfth Century.*

THIS young woman is mentioned in *L'Histoire Littéraire de la France*, as having, in a sort of vision or ecstasy, an idea of the form of the globe, similar to those of late geographers. She reported, that she saw the whole world as one compact body. The sun appeared larger to her than the earth, which hung like an egg suspended in the middle of the air, and was on all sides surrounded with water. This idea, which perhaps some simple observation first gave rise to in the mind of

Alpis

Alpis, served not in the least to rectify the false opinions which then prevailed, or give rise to any doubts or research. It was most likely considered by the wise as merely the dream of a visionary.

F. C.

ALTOUVITI, (MARSEILLES D') a *Provençal Poetess*. Died 1606.

THE family of this lady was originally of Florence; but she was born at Marseilles, and christened by that name. She rendered herself famous by her learning and poetical abilities, so that she is considered one of the ornaments of the sixteenth century.

F. C.

AMAGIA, *Queen of the Sarmatians*.

MEDOSAC, her husband, being entirely given up to luxury and indolence, the affairs of the state, in which he took no interest, fell into the greatest disorder, till Amagia took upon herself the cares of government. She gave public audience; went herself to supply with troops the outposts, which defended the kingdom; repulsed the incursions of their enemies; and even succoured her neighbours, when they were oppressed.

She interfered successfully in the disputes of the petty principalities, with which the Scythian Chersonesus abounded. Her plans were laid with wisdom, and executed with vigour and expedition. She appears to have had justice always in view, but not to have tempered it sufficiently with mercy.

F. C.

AMALA-

AMALASUNTHA, *Daughter of Theodoric, King of the Goths, in Italy, and Wife of Eutharic, an Ostrogoth, afterwards of Theodotus, King of Italy. Died 534.*

NOT having any son, her father married her, in 515, to Eutharic, as he disliked subjecting his people to the dominion of a foreigner. She became a widow before the death of Theodoric, which happened in 526, and was left regent during the minority of her son Athalaric, then eight years old, of whom she undertook the tuition, gave him a Roman education, and endeavoured, in vain, to render him worthy of his situation. He profited nothing by her example and instruction, but gave himself up to luxury and dissipation, and died at the age of sixteen. Amalasuntha, by marriage, then raised her cousin, Theodotus, to the throne, who repaid her benefits with the blackest ingratitude; imprisoned, and then caused her to be put to death, or, as others say, strangled her with his own hands. The death of Amalasuntha was revenged by the emperor Justinian, who sent his general, Belisarius, against the murderer, and destroyed the power of the Goths in Italy.

Amalasuntha was a most enlightened and excellent princess; a protector of the arts and sciences. She not only possessed the qualities necessary to support an administration beneficial to the people; but also those that would contribute to make it brilliant and glorious to herself. She was well instructed in philosophy, knew perfectly the Greek and Latin, and spoke also the languages of the different people who composed the Roman empire.

Respect for the memory of her father had given Amalasuntha great authority with the Goths; and her intrinsic merit and personal accomplishments, made a nation,

tion, proud and delicate in point of honour, glory in obeying her. Her majestic exterior, announced the elevation of her soul. Her understanding was lively and penetrating, but firm and moderate; and her natural powers had been cultivated by a masculine and serious education. She spoke little, but her words were full of meaning. Active, yet always tranquil, she quietly terminated the most important affairs; and the impenetrable secrecy she observed, gave her leisure to remove obstacles, and insure the success of her designs. Affable, liberal, faithful to her promises, she won the hearts of her admiring people. By her prudence she pacified the eastern emperor, who had been offended, and maintained concord between the Goths and Romans, whom she impartially governed; and, as long as Athalaric was guided by her counsels, happiness and prosperity reigned in his kingdom.

This princess lamented the cruel fate of the learned Boëtius, beheaded by her father. She expressed the utmost respect for his memory; and, to make all the atonement in her power, for the injuries he had sustained, she caused his statues, which had been thrown down at Rome, to be again erected; and all his possessions restored to his heirs.

Histoire du Bas Empire, par Pere le Beau, &c.

AMALFI, (DONNA CONSTANTIA D'AVALOS,
DUCHESS D',) *a Neapolitan Poetess of the Sixteenth
Century,*

WAS of the same noble family with the husband of Victoria Colonna, Marchioness de Pescara, with whose poems her's are usually bound. She was celebrated by all the learned men of the age; and, though few of her
works

works remain, those confessedly place her in a high rank among the Italian lyrists. Her muse was grave, but ingenious; and her piety is every where conspicuous in her works, as it is said to have been also in an exemplary life.

F. C.

AMALTHEA, DEMOPHILA, or HIEROPHILA,
the Cumean Sybil.

IN the year of Rome, 219, 535 years before Christ, an old woman presented Tarquin the Proud nine books, which, she said, concerned the future destiny of Rome, and asked three hundred golden crowns for them. The king treated her demand with contempt; on which she burnt three before him. Some days after, she returned, and offered him the six which remained, for the same sum she had demanded for the whole; and, on his refusal, burnt three more. Surprised at her behaviour, he asked what she would have for those which were left; but she would not abate her first price. Not knowing what to do, he consulted the pontifs, who advised him to pay her the three hundred crowns. These books were held in such veneration by the Romans, that two magistrates were appointed to keep and consult them upon all extraordinary occasions, such as public calamities or necessities, when they acted as these sacred volumes appeared to advise them.

From fragments which remain, and from the use which Virgil made of them in his *Pollio*, it is evident, that they predicted the birth of our Saviour; but, whether they were merely the work of human fraud and ingenuity, and borrowed this striking prophecy from the Hebrews, or that the evil spirits, deluding the world so many ages by lying oracles, were obliged thus to fore-

tel

tel their own destruction, has been a doubt with the learned.

A work called the *Sybilline Oracles*, was published at Amsterdam, in 1689; but is believed to be spurious.

New Biographical Dictionary. F. C. &c.

AMBOISE, (FRANCES D',) *Duchess of Brittany, Daughter of Lewis d'Amboise, Viscount de Thouars, and Prince of Talmond. Died 1485.*

WAS brought up at the court of Brittany, and married to Peter, brother to the reigning duke, a man of a violent and jealous temper; but the heroic patience and gentleness of the duchess, at length made him ashamed of the excesses into which his passions transported him; he demanded pardon for his injustice, and they ever after lived perfectly happy.

Some time after their reconciliation, the death of his brother called Peter II. to the throne. Frances used her influence and authority only for the happiness of the people. The reform of luxury in dress, was the first object of her attention. She herself practised the most perfect simplicity; and the ladies of the court following her example, it soon spread through all ranks. The Duke wished to profit by this economy of his subjects, to impose new taxes; but the duchess persuaded him to relinquish the design. She engaged him to solicit the canonization of Vincent Ferrier, who was called the Apostle of Brittany; and to erect a house in the city of Nantes, for the nuns of the order of St. Clair.

While this house was building, the duke fell dangerously ill, of a malady to which the physicians could give no name. Ignorance attributed it to some magician, who, gained by his enemies, had reduced him to this situation.

situation. The greater part of the courtiers said, a more able sorcerer should be sought, to counteract the charms of the first; but, whether the good sense of the duchess led her to disbelieve the efficacy of this expedient, or her piety revolted from using unlawful means, for the attainment of any purpose, however desirable, she refused to comply.

The duke expired in her arms, in October, 1457, after having reigned seven years. Arthur, his successor, wanted to deprive her of her dowry, and caused her many unpleasant embarrassments. To ensure her a protector, her father was anxious to engage her in a second marriage, with the prince of Savoy; and the king, (Louis XI.) and queen of France, took the most lively interest in the affair: but, neither their solicitations, nor those of her father, could overcome the resolution she had formed, of living in perpetual widowhood; and, at length, to put an end not only to their entreaties, but to their well-meant, though ineffectual constraint, she retired into a convent, near Vannes, and took the habit of a Carmelite.

F. C.

AMMANATI, (LAURA BATTIFERRI,) *an Italian Poetess. Born at Urbino, 1513, died at Florence, November, 1589, aged 76.*

DAUGHTER of John Anthony Battiferri, and wife of Bartholomew Ammanati, a celebrated sculptor and architect, of Florence. She applied herself all her life to the study of philosophy and polite literature; and cultivated Italian poetry with so much success, that she is esteemed one of the best poets of the sixteenth century. Her translations of the *Penitential Psalms*, in odes; the *Prayer of Jeremiah*, in blank verse; and a hymn on the
Glory

Glory of Paradise, written originally by Peter Damien, and falsely attributed to St. Augustin, are the most generally approved by men of letters, and especially by Annibal Caro, and Bernard Tasso, father of the famous Tasso, who speaks very highly of her in his *Amadis*. Her works are distinguished by a noble and elevated stile; by the excellence of the morality, and the spirit of piety which pervades them. Her death was regretted by all who loved the fine arts; and particularly by the court of Tuscany, where she was highly esteemed. The Academy of the Intronati, at Sienna, chose her for one of their members; and the famous German painter, Ans d' Aken, requested permission to take a portrait of her, that he might carry a copy back to his own country, and make a lady known to it, whose praises were celebrated throughout Italy. A collection of her poems were printed, first at Florence, and then at Naples, in 1694.

F. C.

ANACOANA, *Queen of Maguana, and Wife of Carnabo, the most powerful King in the Island of St. Domingo,*

WAS a princess of great understanding, and highly favourable to the Spaniards, whose superior intelligence and knowledge she unfortunately too highly appreciated. On the death of her husband, she retired into the dominions of her brother, the king of Xiragua. Bartholomew Columbus, brother of the celebrated Christopher, profited of the partiality of this princess, to conciliate her brother, hitherto unfavourable, till he consented to receive them as friends, and pay a tribute of cotton and provisions, the produce of the country.

On the death of her brother, in 1503, without children, Anacoana was called to the throne. Her opinion

of the Spaniards was entirely changed. She had seen their ingratitude and selfishness; and, becoming mistrustful of her, they resolved, by any means, to get her into their power. For this purpose, they accused her to Ovando, the governor-general, as meditating treason; and not to lose any time, he went directly from the town of St. Domingo to Xiragua, with a formidable suite. Anacoana suspected no evil; and, in order to do him more honour, assembled her vassals, and marched at their head, to meet him. These poor people danced, in the fashion of their country, and shouted for joy at the arrival of the Spanish general. He was conducted to the palace, in the midst of acclamations, and feasted there many days.

During this time, an act of the most atrocious perfidy was meditated. Ovando invited the queen to a feast after the European manner; and, accompanied by all her nobility, she came to it on the following Sunday. They were introduced into a hall, where it was to be celebrated, and waited there some time before the Spaniards arrived, who at length made their appearance in battle array. The infantry invested all the avenues of the place; Ovando, at the head of his cavalry, surrounded the house in which the queen was; and a multitude of Indians, whom curiosity had induced to follow their queen, were slain by the foot soldiers. After this massacre, the cavaliers dismounted, and entered the hall with drawn swords. The caciques and principal men were tied to posts, the house set fire to, and all consumed in the flames. Anacoana was loaded with chains, and carried to St. Domingo; her process was soon made out, and she was hung publicly as a rebel.

F. C.

ANASANDRA,

ANASANDRA,

DAUGHTER of Nealces, a Grecian painter, who studied under her father, and became an artist of some eminence.

ANASTASIA, *a Christian Martyr, at Rome, in the Dioclesian Persecution,*

WAS born in that city, of Pretextat, a Pagan, and a Christian woman, named Fausta, who instructed her in the principles of her own religion. After the death of her mother, she was married to Publius Patricius, a Roman knight, who obtained a rich patrimony with her; but no sooner discovered her to be a Christian, than he treated her harshly, keeping her confined, and almost in want of necessaries, while he lavished the wealth he had received with her in luxury and extravagance.

On his death, in the course of a few years, Anastasia gave herself more freely to the study of the Holy Scriptures, which had always been her delight, and to works of charity. Her fortune, though very large, scarcely sufficed for the relief of the poor, and the confessors of Christianity, by whom the prisons were at that time filled.

Her retired manner of life, and her charities, soon led to a suspicion of her religion. She, and three of her female servants, sisters, were arrested by the officers of the emperor, who wanted to make them sacrifice to idols. This they constantly refused to do; on which the three sisters were put to death upon the spot, and Anastasia conducted to prison. She was then exiled to the island of Palmaria; but soon afterwards brought back to Rome,

and burnt alive. Her remains were buried in her garden, by a Christian, named Apollonia, and a church afterwards built upon the spot.

ANCHITA, *wife of Cleombrotus, King of Sparta,*

WHOSE love for her country, and hatred of treason, manifested themselves in opposition to the sentiments of nature. Her son Pausanias, who had distinguished himself so nobly at the battle of Plataea, afterwards, by his arrogant and foolish conduct, disgusted his countrymen; whom he also agreed to betray to the king of Persia, on condition of receiving the daughter of that monarch in marriage. His correspondence being discovered, he fled to the temple of Minerva for refuge; from whence it was not lawful to force him, though condemned to death by the Ephori. His pursuers, therefore, contrived to block up the doors with stones; the first of which, in the proud anguish of a Spartan mother, was laid there by Anchita. In this manner, Pausanias perished with hunger, about 471 years before Christ.

ANCRE. *See GALIGAI.*

ANDRE, CALDERINI, (NOVELLA) *an Italian Lady of great Learning and Beauty in the Fifteenth Century.*

JEAN Andre, her father, caused her to be instructed with the greatest care in every branch of polite literature; and afterwards made her study law, in which she made

made such great progress, that, when any thing happened to prevent his giving a lesson to his pupils, he sent her to supply his place. As he feared that her youth and beauty might distract the attention of her auditors, she was concealed from them by a curtain. To do honour to the name of his daughter and her mother, Andre published, under the title of *Novella*, his commentary upon the decretals of Gregory IX. She was given by him in marriage to John Calderini, a learned professor of the canon law.



ANDREINI, (ISABELLA) *an excellent Italian Actress, of great poetical Abilities. Born at Padua, 1562, died at Lyons, 1604.*

THIS lady was the wife of Francis Andreini, an Italian comedian and poet, though not so celebrated in either character as his wife, towards whom nature appears to have been unusually prodigal of charms and excellencies. The exquisite beauty of her face and person, the melody of her voice in speech and singing, and the taste and feeling she possessed, rendered her inimitable upon the stage. Under her picture, this inscription was put in Latin, “ If you admire, reader, this glory of the theatre, when you only see her, what would you do if you heard her?”

The eulogiums of all the learned men of the age, but more particularly the works she left behind her, establish her claim to poetical excellence. She played admirably well on several instruments, understood the French and Spanish languages, and was not unacquainted with philosophy.

Cardinal Cinthio Aldobrandini had a great esteem for her, as appears by many of her poems, and the epistle

dedicatory to her works. When she went to France, she was kindly received by their majesties, and the celebrated people at court; and wrote several sonnets in their praise, which are to be seen in the second part of her poems.

Isabella Andreini died of a miscarriage, at Lyons, in the forty-second year of her age. Her husband had her interred in the same city; and honoured her with an epitaph, in which he extols her virtues, talents, and piety; and it is worthy of remark, that, amidst all the incense offered to her charms and acquirements, she always preserved a most unblemished reputation.

The death of this actress was not only lamented by her husband, in many poems, but a number of Latin and Italian elegies were consecrated to her memory; several of which were prefixed to her works, in the edition of Milan, in 1605.

Besides her sonnets, madrigals, songs, and eclogues, we have a pastoral of her's, intitled *Mirtilla*, and letters, which were printed at Venice, in 1610.

ANDROCLEA,

CELEBRATED for her love to her country, was of Thebes, in Bœotia. That state was at war with the Orchomenians, they consulted the oracle, which answered, they would be victors, if the most noble amongst them would incur a voluntary death. Antiphenes, the father of Androclea, was the most illustrious, by birth, amongst the Thebans, but did not feel disposed to make that sacrifice for their welfare. Androclea and her sister Alcis, more courageous or more generous than their father, fulfilled this duty in his stead;
and

and the Thebans, in gratitude, erected the statue of a lion to their honour in the Temple of Diana.

ANDROMACHE, *the Wife of Hector, Daughter of Ætion, King of Thebes, in Cilicia, who, with seven sons, perished by the Hand of Achilles, in the same Day.*

DARES, the Phrygian, represents Andromache as having brilliant eyes, fair, and tall. He adds, that she was beautiful, modest, wise, affable, and virtuous; tenderly attached to her husband and children; and it appears, that, notwithstanding the prevalent infidelity of the eastern nations, he confined his affection solely to this princess.

Euripides, on the contrary, has affirmed, that the tenderness of Andromache for her husband was so great, that it extended even to his mistresses; and, that she had nursed the children he had by them: but, this appears to have been said without sufficient foundation, and only proves the general opinion of the mildness and benevolence of her character.

The resignation, which an early acquaintance with misfortune inspires in minds even of the most sensibility, appears to have supported Andromache under the death of her husband, and the multiplied miseries which followed. Dictys of Crete, in his third book affirms, that she accompanied Priam to the tent of Achilles, to demand the dead body of Hector; and brought before him her two sons, Astyanax, (afterwards thrown by the Greeks from a high tower) and Laodamas, to excite his compassion.

On the partition of the captives, after the destruction of Troy, she fell to the share of Pyrrhus, the son of

Achilles. She had by him three sons, named Molossus, Pielus, and Pergamus; and a daughter, Deidamia. Some make Pielus the eldest, and successor to his father; and deduce from him the kings of Epirus, down to Pyrrhus the Great, who died anno 272 B.C.

On the marriage of Pyrrhus with Hermione, this prince united Andromache to Helenus, the son of Priam, who was likewise his captive. Servius and Pausanius place it after the murder of Pyrrhus, at Delphi; and the former says that it took place, because, in dying he had commanded it. By this marriage she had Cestrinus.

Andromache survived Helenus, and left Epirus with Pergamus, the youngest of her sons by Pyrrhus, and followed him into Asia, where Pausanius says Pergamus disputed the sovereignty of the city of Teuthra, with its prince Areus, who had built it; that he killed the latter in single combat, and made himself master of the place, which he called Pergamus; and that the tomb of himself and Andromache were shown there in his time.

F. C.

ANGELBERGA, or INGELBERGA, *Empress of the West, Wife of Lewis II. Emperor and King of Italy, in the Ninth Century.*

NOTHING certain is known concerning the origin of this princess, though she is supposed to have been of illustrious birth. She was a woman of ability and courage; but proud, unfeeling, and so venal, that presents would always induce her to intercept the course of justice, and influence the nomination even of church dignities.

Lothair, king of Lorrain, dying in 869, Charles the Bald, his paternal uncle, took possession of his dominions,

nions, and afterwards divided them with Lewis, king of Germany, without respecting the right of the emperor Lewis, the rightful heir. This latter was at war with the Saracens, in the farthest part of Italy; and, as he could not then approach Lorrain, he had recourse to pope Adrian, who fruitlessly interceded in his behalf.

The war in which he was engaged, detained the emperor till 871, a year that the pride and rapacity of Angelberga, rendered unfortunate to her husband. While a part of his army was engaged at the siege of Tarentum, he was at Benevento, with his court. The troops which he had in the city and its vicinity, were burthensome to their hosts; the empress treated the ladies of Benevento with disdain; and it was suspected she meant to depose Adalgise II. and sell the duchy to some other. This prince concealing his discontent, and seeking to relieve his people from their troublesome auxiliaries, lent a willing ear to the proposals of a Saracen, who, from a prisoner, had become his most intimate friend. He began to be jealous of the power of the French, and espoused the cause of the Greeks with great ardour. Several neighbouring princes secretly entered into his views; and, as soon as the emperor had left Benevento, the general defection began to be visible.

Lewis immediately marched back to that city; but Adalgise found means to persuade him of his fidelity, and turn his arms against the others that had revolted, whom he soon reduced, and returned to Benevento. As this city was much crowded by the troops, Adalgise suggested, that such as came from no great distance might be permitted to return home; and the emperor followed the perfidious counsel, reserving only his own guards. Adalgise then, after some useless resistance, soon made himself master of the person of Lewis, Angelberga, and
their

their suite ; but, on the 17th of September, political reasons made him set them at liberty, after extorting solemn vows from both, that they would never attempt to revenge the treatment they had received, or enter the principality of Benevento in arms.

On leaving Benevento, the emperor sent Angelberga to hold a diet at Ravenna, where it immediately became a question, how they should punish Adalgise. She had no scruples concerning the oath ; but Lewis, though absolved by the pope, did not think himself at liberty to act in person, leaving it entirely to the empress. She speedily assembled an army for that purpose ; but, in the mean time, Adalgise again made his peace with Lewis, though, immediately after, he allied himself more closely than ever with the Greeks, and became a vassal of their emperor.

As Lewis had the succession in Lorrain much at heart, he sent, in the same year 872, Angelberga to treat with the two kings, his uncles, upon the subject. Charles the Bald avoided an interview ; but the empress worked so adroitly upon the mind of Lewis, of Germany, who was inclined to be an honest man, that, without acquainting his new subjects with what he intended, he gave up his share in the kingdom of Lorrain, to his nephew, Lewis II.

While Angelberga thus employed her understanding in the service of her husband, the great lords of Italy, to whom she was obnoxious, profiting of the chagrin he yet felt, concerning the unfortunate affair of Benevento, which might be attributed, in a great measure, to her conduct, sought to entangle him with a mistress ; and persuaded him to send a courier to the empress, desiring her to wait for him in Lombardy, where he meant speedily to come. Whether Angelberga knew the intrigues

trigues of her enemies, or whether such an order appeared suspicious to her, she only made the more haste to join him, and thus disconcerted their projects. Count Campelli, in his history of Spoleto, has taken occasion, from this fact, to suppose, that Angelberga was repudiated by Lewis II. in order to marry this mistress, daughter of the duke of that principality; and, that she became a nun. But the marriage of Lewis and Angelberga was never cancelled; and the daughter of the duke of Spoleto could not have been the person, as she must have been more than fifty years old at the time.

After staying more than a year at Capua, the emperor quitted it, in 879, and passed into Lombardy, where his presence was necessary, leaving the empress and her daughter in that city. The bishop, count Landulph, who, by his flatteries had obtained much influence over the minds of both, persuaded her to put the prince of Salerno, to whom he did homage for Capua, which he had usurped, in prison; from whence he did not effect his deliverance, till he had paid the empress a large sum of money.

She soon after rejoined her husband; and, in 874, built, at Plaisance, a monastery, which afterwards became one of the most famous in all Italy. In 875, Lewis died at Brescia, and Charles the Bald, king of France, succeeded him, instead of his elder brother, Lewis, of Germany. The nobles of Italy held a council at Pavia, at which Angelberga assisted, and took the strange resolution of offering the crown secretly to both kings at once. It is to be supposed, that she had no share in forming this resolution, as she certainly had no reason to be friendly to Charles the Bald.

Angelberga had obtained of her husband the command of the monastery of St. Julia, in Brescia, in which,
being

being a fortified place, her treasures were all deposited ; but Charles the Fat had been sent by his father, Lewis, of Germany, to oppose the pretensions of the king of France ; and entering the city, made himself master of the fruit of all her extortions. Yet, when hostilities ceased in this part of Lombardy, she retired into this monastery ; and, in a letter written the year following, by pope John VIII. it appears the report was, that she had become a nun there ; but nothing is less certain. Though she had lost the treasures deposited in this place, she yet remained very rich in landed property, which had been given to her by her husband. To secure these possessions, she obtained a diploma from Lewis of Germany, in 876, in which he styles her his god-daughter.

In 877, she made her will, at this convent, which Le Campi has printed. She gives to her monastery at Plaisance, a great many manorial rights, which were very valuable, as the lords were entitled to the tenth of all the produce, and many other privileges. She gives also much other property to the hospital built for the sick, and the accommodation of travellers, according to the custom of the age, near the monastery. All is done “ for the benefit and redeeming the soul of the most merciful emperor, and for that of her own. She reserves to herself, during her life, the government and patronage of the monastery and hospital. But, after my death,” she adds, “ I will and desire, that, if my only daughter, Hermengarde, is desirous of taking the religious habit, she may succeed me in the government of the same place. That if, when I leave this life, she does not take the religious habit, I will and decree, that she diminish nothing in the revenues of this monastery and hospital.” This will was confirmed by pope John VIII. the same year.

Hermengarde,

Hermengarde, who, with the consent of her mother, lived at the court of her relation, the duke of Friouli, with his and her own secret approbation, was carried off by Boson, brother of Richildis, wife of Charles the Bald, and married to him in 877. Boson, whom his brother-in-law, dead about two years before, had made duke of Provence, at the instigation of his wife, caused himself to be proclaimed king, in 879; and, by his courage and ability, preserved the crown he had usurped, though attacked by the brother kings of France. In 881, Charles the Fat, being in Italy, caused the empress Angelberga to be taken from the monastery where she resided, and carried prisoner into Germany. It was supposed she might assist Hermengarde and her husband, by her riches and political knowledge, and he meant to serve Lewis and Carloman by her confinement; yet, when he came to Rome to receive the imperial crown, her friend, the pope, demanded the liberty of Angelberga, which Lewis promised, provided the kings of France consented. On which John wrote to them in a very spirited manner: he said this princess was under the protection of the apostolical see, to which the emperor Lewis II. had recommended her; and prayed them to consent that she might be sent back to Rome, where he himself would so well guard her, that she should not even aid, by her counsels, her son-in-law and her daughter.

He also wrote, on this subject, a circular letter to all the archbishops, bishops, and counts of Italy, to engage them to attempt the deliverance of Angelberga; and the next year, by letter, besought the reigning empress to intercede with her husband for that purpose. But, notwithstanding all his efforts, he did not obtain his request, till after the kings of France had taken Vienna, which they besieged near two years, and which Hermengarde herself

herself had, till then, 882, courageously defended. Then Charles took Angelberga from her prison, and sent her, under the care of the bishop of Verceil, his prime minister, to Rome.

After this time we hear no more of her, excepting, that, by a bull in the year 885, pope Adrian III. at her desire, confirmed and augmented the privileges of her monastery. That, in 888, she obtained of Berenger, then created king of Italy, a diploma in confirmation of her property; and the next year, Hermengarde being in Germany, obtained for her a like diploma from the emperor Arnold.

It is not specified when she died. She had only two daughters by the emperor—Hermengarde, who survived her, and Gisela, abbess of St. Julia, who died before her parents.

F. C.

ANGOSCIOLA, (ANNA MARIA, *or* MINERVA)

WAS celebrated for her skill in painting, but more for her great knowledge in Latin and Italian literature. She died young.

ANGOSCIOLA, (EUROPA)

DREW portraits and pictures for altar-pieces, from the designs of Antonio Campi. In 1568 she was visited by Vasari, who was astonished at the freshness and beauty of her colouring.

ANGO-

ANGOSCIOLA, (LUCIA)

ATTAINED such excellence in painting, that, at her death, in 1566, it was the common opinion amongst artists, that if she had not been taken from the world, she would have even surpassed her mistress, the famous Sophonisba, by whom she, and the two preceding, all sisters, were instructed.

Lucia also excelled in singing, and possessed an extensive acquaintance with polite literature.

ANGOSCIOLA-LOMELLINI, (SOPHONISBA) *a female Painter, of a noble Family, at Cremona. Died 1620.*

STUDIED under Bernardino Campi, then under Sojaro, and obtained so great a reputation, that Philip II. invited her to Spain, in 1559; caused her to take his portrait and that of the queen, (one of the latter was also sent to pope Pius IV. at his particular request) and she was so highly esteemed by both of them, that she was assigned a pension, and received many valuable presents. They afterwards married her to Don Fabrizio di Moncada, a Sicilian nobleman, with a splendid dowry, and a pension of one thousand ducats, on the duchy of Palermo. She was sent to her husband with every mark of royal bounty; but soon became a widow, and married, secondly, Orazio Lomellini, who was of one of the most illustrious families in Genoa. She lived to be extremely old, and lost her eye-sight; but still delighted to talk with painters on the difficulties of the art. Anthony Vandyke used to say, that “ he had received more instruction

struction from the painting of a blind woman, than from his master." She taught her art to her three sisters.

Madame Genlis; Abecedario Pittorico, &c.

ANICIA, *or* VALERIA, (PROBA FALCONIA)

WIFE of Anicius Probus, who was a Roman consul, in 371, with the emperor Gratian. She rendered herself illustrious by her understanding; and her piety. St. Augustin, Chrysostom, and Jerome, have all praised her in the highest manner. She composed a life of our Saviour, by putting together divers lines and passages of Virgil, with which she formed what the Latins called Centos, a sort of composition with more conceit than merit attached to it.

F. C.

ANNA, *a Jewish Prophetess, Daughter of Phanuel, of the Tribe of Aser,*

LOSING a husband with whom she had lived seven years, she devoted herself to the service of God, by prayers and fastings, night and day, in the temple, which she never left. When the Saviour of the world was there presented an infant, she announced his greatness; and joined her public testimony of his mission to that of Simeon. She died in the course of the same year.

Bible. F. C.

ANNE OF BRITTANY, *Queen of France, and Duchess of Brittany, Wife of Charles VIII. and Lewis XII. Kings of France. Born at Nantz, 1476, died at Blois, 1514.*

THE eldest daughter of Francis II. duke of Brittany, who had no male heirs, an alliance with her was an
object

object of ambition to the greatest princes in Europe. She was promised, when only five years old, to Edward the Black Prince; but he died soon after: and, as she grew up, her beauty and mental accomplishments made many seek her hand, as well from personal attachment, as any other motive. The Sieur d'Albert, the duke of Orleans, afterwards Lewis XII.; Maximilian, king of the Romans, who became emperor; and Charles VIII. king of France. At the time of her father's death, her choice was undetermined; but, on account of the unsettled state of her dominions, it was thought best to prefer Maximilian, to whom, in 1490, she was married, by proxy; but, before they met, she was persuaded, by the fears the Bretons entertained of the power of France, to break off this intended union, and give her hand to Charles VIII. in 1491; and the daughter of Maximilian, to whom he was already contracted, was sent back to her father, who thus received a double affront.

While Charles pursued his wars in Italy, he left the administration in her hands; and, though scarcely eighteen years of age, she governed with admirable prudence. Dying in 1498, the duke of Orleans, now called to the crown, got his marriage with Jane of France set aside, and became the husband of the queen-dowager, in 1499. She had been once destined for him by her father, and his former love and attachment were not abated. Lewis was frugal, from tenderness to his people; but he did not disapprove the munificence of Anne. She had a cabinet filled with diamonds and all sorts of precious stones, of which she made presents to the wives of those who had deserved well of their country. She was the dispenser of rewards and bounty; the prize of valour, merit, and learning, was given by the hand of
E beauty.

beauty. She made many religious foundations; and, as duchess of Brittany, assumed, with the consent of the king, many privileges heretofore unknown to the queens of France, but which they afterwards retained; such as having a guard; (hers, from her attachment to her native country, was always composed of Bretons) giving audience to ambassadors, &c. “Great and majestic in every thing,” says St. Foix, “she would have a court; and women of quality, who, till then were only born in one castle, to marry and die in another, now came to reside at Paris.” What was more glorious for Anne was, the respect her example inspired for whatever was estimable in the female character. No lady, of even the highest rank, dared appear at court, without she was known to be virtuous; and, to use the words of one of their authors, “She planted honour and delicacy in the hearts of the French ladies.” She instituted the order *De la Cordeliere*, in remembrance of the cords with which our Saviour was bound, and conferred it on the principal ladies of her court, admonishing them, at the same time, to live virtuously, and always remember the obligations and duties of their religion. The queens of France, before her time had mourned in white; but she put on black on the death of Charles VIII: and, on her death, Lewis XII. did the same, contrary to the usual custom also of their kings. A magnificent marble monument was erected to her honour, by Francis I. at St. Denis, near that of Lewis XII.

The author of *Anecdotes of the Queens of France*, says, the complection of Anne was of a dazzling whiteness, but fresh and animated; that she had a large and high forehead, at once dignified and modest, and a face rather long; that she was neither tall, nor otherwise. She had no other personal defect, than a trifling lameness, which, however,

however, from the care she had taken to correct it in walking, and by her shoes, was hardly perceptible. She was naturally eloquent, judicious, and agreeable, notwithstanding the rudeness of an age, to which the graces and literature were alike unknown. Her heart was generous and affectionate; she had a high idea of the duties of a queen: but her pride rendered her revengeful and obstinate. Yet Anne was sincerely pious, even to superstition; but, in all respects pertinacious in adhering to opinions she had once adopted. She wished to appear learned in the eyes of foreigners; and, to ingratiate herself with them, would often intermix phrases of their different languages, when speaking to them, as if she understood them all.

F. C. &c.

ANNE MAURICE, OF AUSTRIA, *Daughter of Philip III. King of Spain, Wife of Lewis XIII. King of France. Died January 20, 1666.*

WAS born at Valladolid, September 22, 1601, five days before her future husband, to whom she was married at Bourdeaux, November 9, 1615; but, though possessed of a great share of beauty, she failed to engage his affections. Cardinal Richelieu rendered him suspicious of her love for her native country, and for her brother, the king of Spain, to whom she always wrote privately. She had a skin of remarkably fine texture, and very fair; a quantity of light-brown hair; beautiful eyes, with a tint of green in them, which increased their vivacity and sweetness; a small mouth; hands and arms of extraordinary beauty and whiteness. Her nose was large; and she wore too much rouge. She was tall, and had a lofty,

but not a proud look. Her air and smile inspired tenderness, accompanied with veneration and respect.

Anne was conscious of her charms; and believed it to be the prerogative of the fair, to be beloved, even without hope. Thus, she was flattered by the homage of the duke de Montmorenci; and, when she learnt he had recovered his freedom, considered herself as injured, and would see him no more. The duke of Buckingham, who came as ambassador to negotiate a marriage between our Charles I. and Henrietta of France, made no mystery of the passion he had conceived for her. Ready to embark, at Calais, he left his future sovereign there, on some frivolous pretence, that he might return to court, for another look at the queen. Scarcely had he arrived in England, than he wanted to return; but Lewis XIII. would not consent to it; and Buckingham afterwards did all he could to embroil the two countries, that he might come back to treat of peace. The queen, who had the most romantic ideas of the privileges of beauty, afterwards became more discreet, and would submit no longer to be talked to of love.

Lewis XIII. would have pardoned her coquetry, if he had not suspected her of political intrigues. She hated cardinal Richelieu, and did not conceal it. Barriere, one of her people, offered to kill him. "No;" said the queen, "to that I cannot consent; for he is a priest." Yet she was suspected of plotting his death. She is said to have known of a conspiracy against him; for not having revealed which, though convicted of no active part, the son of the famous de Thou was beheaded, in 1642. Richelieu caused her more than once to be examined by some of the presidents of the Parisian parliament, respecting Spanish plots against his administration.

tion. "God, my lord cardinal," said she, "does not pay me weekly; but he will pay me at last." After the birth of two sons, she enjoyed more consideration with the king; but at his death, in 1643, he left her merely the title of regent, giving all the authority to a council of his own choosing; but, his eyes were scarcely closed, when, discontented with this arrangement, she made the parliament annul the decree of the king. Yet nobody was less proper than herself, to sustain the weight of government. She was naturally indolent, and had not the least knowledge of business. She felt her own incapacity, and the need she had of a director; and cardinal Mazarin, one of those appointed by the late king, by his pliability and address, soon gained all her confidence. Never was France so agitated as during her regency. The court was always at war with the parliament and the people, on the most trifling causes, and almost always worsted.

In the early part of her administration, she was profuse in her favours, and not knowing their importance, granted even the most impertinent demands. The French language was said to be reduced to these few words, *The Queen is so good!* This is said to have laid a foundation for all the evils which followed. The revenues of the state were exhausted by her inconsiderate donations; and to obtain money, she retrenched a third of all pensions, which made her a great number of enemies. This resource was found insufficient, and new taxes became necessary to be levied, on a nation already heavily burthened. The parliament opposed it, and the people sustained by them, became furious, and murmured at the great expences of the court in amusements, which were certainly more than indiscreet at such a time.

It was the fault of the queen and her council to resent things too violently at first, and yield unseasonably—which made them at once hated and despised; as these late concessions were justly attributed to imbecility. She was counselled once to set Broussel at liberty, whom they had imprisoned during these tumults, which was loudly demanded by the people: “Set him free!” said she, “I would sooner strangle him with my own hands!” but yet it was found necessary to do it. The sedition augmented to such a height, that she was no longer safe in her own palace; and they began to cry out, “Let the king rule by himself!” Lewis XIV. who was only five years old on the death of his father, was not then above eleven.

The devotional exercises of the queen, meanwhile, were not interrupted. She left the conduct of affairs to Mazarin; but at length, out of patience at the increased commotion, resolved to abandon the field to the factions, and escape with the king from Paris; a design which she executed with success, and was soon followed to St. Germain by the Cardinal and the court. As this was a sudden thing, they found but indifferent accommodations. There was neither moveables nor linen; and three little beds, which they brought with them, being occupied by the royal family, straw was spread in the apartments for the rest.

On the departure of the queen, despair seems to have seized the minds of the Parisians: they appeared frantic, and nothing but confusion was seen throughout the city. The parliament, who expected the royal vengeance to fall heavily upon them, in their own defence, ordered the citizens to take up arms. They refused to obey the command of the queen, and leave Paris. She then forbade the

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the neighbouring villages to carry provisions there. Both parties were exasperated to the utmost, and declared open war. The prince of Conti put himself at the head of the *Frondeurs*, or exploders, as that faction was called, from having forced the royal family to leave the city.

The queen's party laid siege to Paris for two months, and then patched up a temporary peace. They entered the city amidst the general acclamations of the people; but the war *de la Fronde* soon broke out with greater violence than ever.

Anne was obliged to banish Mazarin, the object of their hatred; when her son became of age, to take into his own hands the reins of government, he recalled him; but the troubles were not appeased till 1660.

In 1663 Anne fell sick, from having observed Lent too rigidly; and the next summer, a little tumour appeared upon her breast, to which she at first paid no attention: but which afterwards, from the ignorance of her physicians, degenerated into an incurable cancer. The 27th of May, 1665, she was seized with a fever, followed by an erisipelas, which covered half her body. The abbe Montagu, an Englishman, and one of her confidants, announcing her approaching death. "You give me pleasure;" said she, "these are the most solid and the truest signs of friendship!" She then made her will; and growing still worse, called for the Viaticum and extreme unction, which she received with great devotion.

Her cancer was not the only evil which assailed her: an abscess had formed under one of her arms, which gave her excruciating pain. Her patience was exercised in many ways. Fastidiously nice in her person, and delicate in respect to odours, fine linen, and all the appur-

tenances of the toilette—her every sense was put to the torture; but she shewed no impatience, and uttered no complaint.

On the 4th of August she found herself better, and hopes began to be entertained of her recovery. She was brought from St. Germain's to Paris, to the convent of Val-de-Grace; but did not remain there long. The ceremonies necessary to be observed on opening the doors, put the physicians out of patience, and she was carried to the Louvre. But the unfavourable symptoms again appearing, she was obliged to submit to most painful operations. On the 16th of January, 1666, a new erisipelas appeared—her hands began to swell, and looking at them, she remarked it, saying, it was time for her to die.

During a most painful operation on the cancer, when it was necessary to repeat the stroke of the lancet, she cried out, “ Lord, Lord! let my sufferings atone for my sins! I bear all most willingly, O God! since it is thy will!” The bishop of Auch, her confessor, was once saying all he could to comfort her; and, after praying by her some time, returned thanks to God for all the favours he had been pleased to bestow upon her during life: “ Ah!” she exclaimed, with dying accents, “ it is true he made me great, but of what importance is that to a future state! How insignificant does all I heretofore considered glorious appear to me now! How sensibly I feel my own unworthiness!”

Anne of Austria was sincerely regretted by her son, who had paid her the most unremitting attention during her illness; and to whom she had been a most affectionate and careful parent. Cardinal de Retz has given the following whimsical portrait of this princess; “ The queen had, more than any body I have ever seen, the sort of understanding

standing, which was necessary not to appear a fool to those who did not know her. She had more sharpness than pride; more pride than grandeur; more manner than depth; more understanding in money-matters, than liberality; more liberality, than selfishness; more selfishness than disinterestedness; more attachment, than passion; more hardness, than haughtiness; more remembrance of injuries than benefits; more intention of piety, than piety itself; more obstinacy than firmness; and more of incapacity, than any thing."

There seems to be malice in this description; and in some respects it did her remarkable injustice, since forgiveness of personal injuries was a striking trait in her character; and the last favour she asked of her son was, the recal of a gentleman, who had been banished for a libel against herself. She shewed also a great liberality of sentiment on some other occasions. Anthony Berthier, librarian of Paris, wished to join two volumes of letters and memoirs, that he had carefully collected, to the life of cardinal Richelieu; and solicited the countenance of the queen-mother, as, unless supported by her authority, he dared not venture it, since many persons then living, were there treated very freely. "Proceed," replied the queen, "without fear, and shame vice so completely, that nothing but virtue may remain in France."

Anne was passionate and vindictive in the first heat of her resentments, but was sensible to reproof: and the bishop of Angers once nobly reminded her, that, to be a Christian, we must not permit ourselves to be guilty of one intentional sin, however gratifying to our passions. When Angers revolted, in 1652, she was determined to take heavy vengeance upon it; but was prevented from her sanguinary purpose, by this bishop, who, as he administered

ministered the sacrament to her, said, “ Take, madam, the body of him, who forgave his enemies upon the cross..”

Notwithstanding the jealousies and factions during her regency, she appears to have had the interest of the French very much at heart; and delivered the monarchy into the hands of her son more powerful than it had ever before been. She was buried at St. Denis, but her heart was carried to Val-de-Grace, which she had founded. The following epitaph was made upon her :

“ Sister, Wife, Mother, and Daughter of Kings ! Who was
ever more worthy of these glorious Titles ?”

Letters of St. Foix, &c.

ANNE IWANOWNA, *Czarina and Grand Duchess of Russia. Born 1693, died, at Petersburg, 1740, aged 47.*

YOUNGEST daughter of the czar John Alexiowitz, she married, in 1710, Frederic William, duke of Courland, who died without children, 1711. The czar Peter II. her grand nephew, dying in 1780, she was proclaimed empress. She was then at Mittau, in Courland, her usual residence, where deputies came to announce her succession, and to propose some articles from the council of state, at Moscow, limiting the power and prerogatives of the crown, which she accepted and signed.

When duchess of Courland, Anne had shown great favour to Biron, a person of mean extraction, but who, by a lucky chance had become gentleman of the chamber, and married one of her maids of honour. His ascendancy over her, his spirit of intrigue, and extreme

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arrogance were so notorious, that one of the articles proposed was, that she should not bring Biron into Russia. She did not object at the time, but had scarcely arrived in Moscow, before he made his appearance at her court. By his advice, she formed a strong party, and brought about a revolution, which restored to the crown despotic authority. But when the whole plan was ripe for execution, Anne hesitated, and was alarmed, till Biron took her by the hand, and led her to the door of the apartment in which the council of state, senate, and principal nobility were assembled, when she was declared absolute sovereign. Absolute only through the medium of Biron, she appears; for, during her reign, and by her will, which appointed him regent, during the minority of her nephew Ivan, for some weeks after her death, he ruled with despotic sway the vast empire of Russia; and, though the empress was mild and merciful, it is said, more than 20,000 people were banished into Siberia, during her reign. Sometimes the violence of his temper would break forth in a manner most disrespectful to the empress. Once in particular, while the duchess of Bevern had an audience, Biron burst into the apartment without ceremony, threatening, with the most horrid imprecations, that he would no longer be vexed and tormented by her servants, but would retire into Courland, (of which he had been made duke.) Having uttered these words, he quitted the room, and shut the door with great violence. The empress, in the highest consternation, lifted up her hands to heaven, then clasped them together; and being almost ready to faint, opened the window for fresh air. While she continued in this agitation, the duchess of Courland, accompanied by her children, entered the room, knelt down, and entreated the empress to forget and forgive the passionate behaviour of her husband

husband. Anne in this, as in every other instance, relented, and tolerated his insolence.

During the setting of the cabinet council, she used frequently to repair to an adjoining room, to consult him. She had no table of her own, but dined with his family. He was undoubtedly a man of very great capacity. During his whole administration, the external splendour of the Russian empire, and its internal tranquillity announced the wisdom of his measures.

Coxe's Travels.

ANNE STUART, *Queen of England*.—See
STUART.

ANTIGUA, (MARIA DE LA),

A Spanish nun, who lived at the beginning of the seventeenth century. She was not learned; but composed, with prodigious facility, many treatises on religious matters, which are yet extant.

ANTIOPE, *Queen of the Amazons*.

THAT such a people did exist, among the Scythians, there is little reason to doubt; but, whether they consisted of a separate society of women, or, that the girls of those districts were brought up in a hardy manner, and instructed in warlike exercises, may be disputed; but the last opinion seems the most probable. Much historical mention is made of their queens, particularly of Antiope. It was one of the twelve labours of Hercules, to bring the girdle, or, as others say, the scarf of this queen of the Amazons, to Euristheus, king of Mycena.

He

He went, accompanied by the bravest Grecian warriors, and besieged her capital—when, after many skirmishes, in which numbers on both sides perished, Antiope and two sisters were taken prisoners; and, believing it wiser to give up the contested ornament, than be carried into captivity, she yielded it to Hercules, and recovered her liberty, and that of her sister Menalippe. The other, Hypolita, was married to Theseus, king of Athens, who, according to some, was principal in this expedition.

ANTOINETTE.—See MARY ANTOINETTE.

ANYTA.

A Famous Grecian poetess, some verses written by whom, were printed at Antwerp, in 1568, in a collection intituled, *Carmina novem Poetarum fœminarum*.

APOLLONIA, *a Martyr in the Year 248.*

A Persecution was raised against the Christians in Alexandria, during which Apollonia, then very aged, was arrested. She refused to renounce her faith, and they prepared to throw her into a large fire, when, asking to be released, as if the sight of the punishment had changed her purpose, she no sooner found herself at liberty, than she threw herself into the flames!

Milner's Christian Church.

ARC,

ARC, (JOAN OF) *Maid of Orleans.* Born 1402, died June 14, 1431.

AFTER the death of Henry V. king of England, who, for some time reigned absolute in France, though without the title of king, (which, however, was assured to him and his descendants after the death of Charles VI. who survived him but two months) the regency of that kingdom was left to his brother, the duke of Bedford, one of the most accomplished princes of the age, whose experience, prudence, valour, and generosity, enabled him to maintain union among his friends, and to gain the confidence of his enemies. Charles VII. though inferior in power, was possessed of many great advantages in the affections of all Frenchmen, who desired the independence of their country. The city of Orleans, the most important place in the kingdom, was besieged by Bedford, as a step which would prepare the way for the conquest of all France. The French king used every expedient to supply the city with a garrison and provisions; and the English left no method unemployed for reducing it. The eyes of all Europe were turned towards this scene of action, where it was reasonably supposed the French were to make their last stand for maintaining the independence of their monarchy, and the rights of their sovereign. After numberless feats of valour on both sides, the attack was so vigorously pushed by the English, that Charles gave up the city as lost, when relief was brought from a very unexpected quarter.

In the village of Domremi, near Vaucouleurs, on the borders of Lorrain, lived a country girl, whose name was Joan d' Arc; and who, in the humble station of servant at an inn, had been accustomed to tend the horses of the guests,

guests, to ride them without a saddle to the watering-place, and to perform other offices, which commonly fall to the share of men-servants. This girl, influenced by the frequent accounts of the rencounters at the siege of Orleans, and affected with the distresses of her country and youthful monarch, was seized with a wild desire of bringing relief to him in his present unhappy circumstances. Her inexperienced mind, working day and night on this favourite object, mistook the impulses of passion for heavenly inspirations; fancied she saw visions, and heard voices, exhorting her to re-establish the throne of France, and expel the foreign invaders. An uncommon intrepidity of spirit made her divine mission dispel all that bashfulness so natural to her sex, her years, and low condition. She went to Vaucouleurs, procured admission to Baudricourt the governor, and informed him of her inspirations and intentions. Baudricourt observed something extraordinary in the maid, or saw the use that might be made of such an engine, and sent her to the French court, which then resided at Chinon.

Joan was no sooner introduced to the king, than she offered, in the name of the Supreme Creator, to raise the siege of Orleans, and conduct him to Rheims, to be there crowned and anointed: and she demanded, as the instrument of her future victories, a particular sword, which was kept in the church of St. Catherine de Fierbois. The more the king and his ministers were determined to give into the illusion, the more scruples they pretended. An assembly of grave and learned divines was appointed, to examine her mission; and pronounced it undoubted and supernatural. Her request was granted; she was armed *cap-a-pie*, mounted on horseback, and shown, in that martial habiliment, to the whole people.

Her

Her dexterity in managing her steed, though acquired in her former station, was regarded as a fresh proof of her mission; her former occupation was even denied; she was converted into a shepherdess, an employment more agreeable to the fancy. Some years were subtracted from her age, in order to excite still more admiration; and she was received with the loudest acclamations, by persons of all ranks.

The English at first affected to speak with derision of the maid and her heavenly mission; but were secretly struck with the strong persuasion which prevailed in all around them. They found their courage daunted, by degrees, and thence began to infer a divine vengeance hanging over them. A silent astonishment reigned among those troops, formerly so elated with victory, and so fierce for the combat. The maid entered the city of Orleans, at the head of a convoy, arrayed in her military garb, and displaying her consecrated standard. She was received as a celestial deliverer by the garrison and its inhabitants; and with the instructions of count Dunois, commonly called the Bastard of Orleans, who commanded in that place, she actually obliged the English to raise the siege of that city, after driving them from their entrenchments, and defeating them in several desperate attacks.

Raising the siege of Orleans was one part of the maid's promise to Charles: crowning him at Rheims was the other; and she now vehemently insisted, that he should set out immediately on that journey. A few weeks before, such a proposal would have appeared altogether extravagant. Rheims lay in a distant quarter of the kingdom; was then in the hands of a victorious enemy; the whole road that led to it was occupied by their garrisons; and no imagination could have been so sanguine as to hope, that such an attempt could possibly be carried

ried into execution. But, as things had now taken a turn, and it was extremely the interest of the king of France to maintain the belief of something extraordinary and divine in these events, he resolved to comply with her exhortations, and avail himself of the present consternation of the English. He accordingly set out for Rheims at the head of twelve thousand men, and scarcely perceived as he passed along, that he was marching through an enemy's country. Every place opened its gates to him: Rheims sent him its keys, and the ceremony of his inauguration was performed with the holy oil, which a pigeon is said to have brought from heaven to Clovis, on the first establishment of the French monarchy.

As a mark of his gratitude, Charles had a medal struck in her honour. On one side was her portrait, on the other a hand holding a sword with these words, *Consilio confirmata Dei*. "Sustained by the assistance of God." The king also ennobled all her family, as well in the male as in the female line; the former became extinct in 1760. In 1614, the latter, at the request of the procurator-general, were deprived of their privilege of ennobling their children, independent of their husband. The town of Domremi, also, where she was born, was exempted from all taxes, aids, and subsidies for ever.

The *Maid of Orleans*, as she is called, declared, after this coronation, that her mission was now accomplished; and expressed her inclination to retire to the occupations and course of life which became her sex. But Dunois, sensible of the great advantages which might still be reaped from her presence in the army, exhorted her to persevere, till the final expulsion of the English. In pursuance of this advice, she threw herself into the town of Compiègne, at that time besieged by the duke of Bur-

gundy, assisted by the earls of Arundel and Suffolk. The garrison, on her appearance, believed themselves invincible. But their joy was of short duration. The maid, after performing prodigies of valour, was taken prisoner in a sally; and the duke of Bedford, resolved upon her ruin, ordered her to be tried by the ecclesiastical court for sorcery, impiety, idolatry, and magic. She was found guilty by her ignorant or iniquitous judges, of all those crimes, aggravated by heresy. Her revelations were declared to be inventions of the devil, to delude the people. No efforts were made by the French court to deliver her; and this admirable heroine was cruelly delivered over alive to the flames, at the age of nineteen, A.D. 1431, and expiated by the punishment of fire, the signal services which she had rendered to her prince and native country.

Joan appears not only to have been a virtuous and heroic character, but to have possessed that truth and sensibility, which should, and perhaps always does, accompany true genius. Her manner is recorded to have been mild and gentle, when unarmed, though courageous in the field. She was frequently wounded; and once drawing out the English arrow, cried out, "It is glory, and not blood, which flows from this wound!" and, when mounting the fatal pile, though her face was covered with tears, she said, "God be blessed!"

Russel's Modern Europe, F. C. &c.

ARETE, *two of that Name, one Wife, the other Daughter of Aristippus, of Cyrene.*

THIS celebrated philosopher had instructed them with so much success, that his wife was able to teach philosophy and the sciences to her son, who was therefore called

called *Metrodidactos*, taught by his mother: and after the death of Aristippus, his daughter was unanimously elected head of the school. All her cotemporaries have cited her as a prodigy of beauty, virtue, understanding and knowledge. The five daughters of Diodorus Cronus were likewise famous for their knowledge and virtue.

F. C.

ARGENIS,

DAUGHTER of Alyattes, king of Lydia, by her genius and eloquence, reconciled the Medes and Lydians, who had been at war five years.

ARGENTARIA, (POLLA)

WIFE of the poet Lucan, cultivated herself the art with success, and corrected the *Pharsalia*, after the death of her husband.

ARIGNOTE,

A Learned woman, of whom St. Clement, of Alexandria, makes mention. The time she lived in is unknown. She wrote a history of Dionysius, tyrant of Syracuse.

ARISTARETE,

DAUGHTER of Nearchus, a celebrated painter of Sy-cion—became his disciple, and obtained great fame from painting an Esculapius.

ARNAULD, (MARY ANGELICA) *a French Nun, Sister of the famous doctor Arnauld, titular Abbess, and Reformer of the Convent of Port Royal des Champs. Born 1596, died 1661, aged 70.*

THIS lady, whose knowledge and virtue were celebrated from a child, was the first that sought to bring back the simplicity of manners and self-denial which were known in cloisters, at their first institution. She herself gave the example of disinterestedness, humility, and obedience, and wrought such a happy change in her sisterhood, that she was sent for, at the age of twenty, to Maubisson, to reform that great abbey, where she remained five years. It was here she became acquainted with Francis de Sales, afterwards canonized, who held her in high esteem. On her return to Port Royal, her assiduities never relaxed till her death. Her sister Catherine Agnes was a nun also, and author of two little books, *Le Chapelet secret du Saint Sacrament*, and *l'Image de la Religieuse parfaite et imparfaite*. The first was censured by the Sorbonne, as liable to mislead the ignorant. She died 1671, aged 77. She had been 72 years a nun, so that she must have taken the veil at the age of five years, which seems an absurdity.

F. C.

ARRAGON, (JANE OF), *an Italian Lady, Daughter of Ferdinand of Arragon, duke of Montalto, and Wife of Ascanius Colonna, by whom she had the famous Marc Antony Colonna, who vanquished the Turks, at Lepanto. Died 1577.*

So remarkable for beauty, wit, and courage, that a large collection of poems in her praise, was published at Venice,

nice, in 1555, in the Latin, Greek, Italian, French, Spanish, Slavonic, Polonese, Hungarian, Hebrew, Chaldean, &c. languages.

Essay on Women, by M. Thomas.

ARRAGON, (TULLIA OF) *a Neapolitan Lady, celebrated for her erudition, understanding, and poetical talents. Flourished about 1550.*

WAS born at Naples, but carried to Rome in her infancy, and brought up in that city with the greatest care. When very young, the study of polite literature, and exercising a happy talent for poetry, which she possessed, formed her highest enjoyments. She soon became known, and was early classed with the most illustrious of the learned. She afterwards passed several years at Venice, where her society was much courted by all people of merit or science. She wrote many miscellaneous poems, which appeared at first scattered in several different collections, but were collected and published at Venice, in 1547. They carry marks of genius and a sprightly imagination, and are much praised for purity of stile.

She was persuaded by some of her literary acquaintance, to write a treatise on the infinity of love, *Dell Infinita d'Amor*, which was printed at Venice. She there also composed a poetical romance, called the Unfortunate, *Il Meschino*, which perhaps may be called an epic poem. The hero wanders, like Telemachus, from place to place, in search of his father. This work, of which the stile was much praised, had not much success. It was said to be translated from a Spanish Romance; but is now believed to be an old Italian poem, new written and better versified. Honourable mention of Tullia is

made by many Italian writers, but more particularly by the famous Girolamo Muzio, who was deeply in love with her, and esteemed her highly. In the third book of his letters, he speaks much of the good qualities and virtues of this ingenious lady; and his most beautiful poems are written in her praise, under the fictitious names of Tyrrhenia and Thalia.

F. C.

ARRIA, *Wife of Cæcina Pætus, a Consul under the emperor Claudius, in the first Century.*

IN the reigns of the unworthy successors of Cæsar, the most unbridled licentiousness prevailed at Rome; and with its liberties, the last remains of moral restraint seemed to have expired. The sect of the Stoics alone, to which all that was noble of both sexes then belonged, by a stern and unbending austerity, by rigorous self-denial and fortitude, acted as a powerful counterpoise to the general depravity. Arria was of this sect, and, if the abandonment of every personal consideration, and the power of subjecting lively and tender feelings be the highest proof of magnanimity, she is well entitled to that immortality her actions have secured.

Her son and husband were both sick of a dangerous illness at the same time: the former died; and she was convinced, that, in his present weak state Pætus could not survive a knowledge of the fatal event. She therefore fulfilled every mournful duty to the remains of her child, whom she bitterly bewailed in secret; but, when she entered the chamber of his father, concealed the anguish of her soul, under the assumed smiles of hope and confidence; not even his solicitude and frequent inquiries disarmed her resolution, which his recovery, in
this

this instance, rewarded; but which was soon to be put to still greater trials.

Scribonius had excited a revolt in Illyria, the object of which was, to dethrone the imbecile Claudius; but was vanquished, and put to death. Pœtus, one of his partisans, was also taken prisoner, and carried to Rome by sea. Arria entreated to be permitted to accompany him, alledging, that to a man of his rank, some attendants of course must be allowed; that these should be dispensed with, and she would fulfil all their duties, if permitted to come on board! On the refusal of the soldiers, she hired a small bark, and followed him. On her arrival at Rome, she was met in the palace by the widow of Scribonius, who wished to speak to her. "I speak to thee!" returned Arria indignantly, "to thee who hast been witness of thy husband's death, and yet survivest!" For she had herself determined, that, if all her endeavours to save Pœtus, failed, she would die with him. Her son-in-law Thraseus, used every argument to persuade her to give up this design. "Were I," said he, "in his situation, would you have your daughter die with me?" "Certainly;" answered she, "had she lived with you as long and as happily as I with Pœtus." He was at length condemned to die; whether by his own hands, at that time no uncommon sentence, is uncertain; if it were not so, he wished to avoid the punishment allotted him by a voluntary death; but at the moment wanted courage. Seeing him staggered and hesitating, Arria seized the dagger, plunged it first into her own breast, and then presenting it to her husband, said, with a smile, "It is not painful, Pœtus!"

The wife of Thraseus, and her daughter, who married

Helvidius Priscus, inherited the fate and sentiments of Arria.

Essay by M. Thomas. F. C. &c.

ARTEMISIA, *Queen of Caria, Daughter of Lygdamus.*

THIS princess, celebrated for her courage and prudence, enjoyed the royal authority, on account of the minority of her son. When Xerxes declared war against the Greeks, about the year 480 B.C. the love of glory led her to accompany him in this expedition; and she distinguished herself more than any of the Persian generals. She counselled Xerxes not to risk the battle of Salamis, the event of which was so unfortunate to him. During the action, she, however, acted so conspicuous a part, that the Athenians offered a great reward to any man who should take her prisoner. Seeing herself pursued for this purpose, by one of their vessels, without any hope of escape, she made use of a bold and cruel stratagem, which at once gratified her revenge, and ensured her safety. She attacked a Persian vessel, commanded by Damasythimus, king of Calyndus, who was her enemy, and sunk it. The Athenians, judging by this action that she was in the Grecian interest, ceased to pursue her, and Xerxes, who believed she had destroyed a Grecian vessel, cried out, "that the men behaved like women, and the women like men." He confided to her the care of the young princes his children, when, by her advice, he abandoned Greece to return into Asia.

Expert in all the arts and stratagems of war, Artemisia wished to make herself mistress of Latmus, a small city on the borders of her kingdom. She placed some troops in ambuscade, and went, with a grand suite, as

if

if to celebrate the feast of Cybele in an adjoining wood, which was consecrated to that goddess. The inhabitants abandoned the city to join in this act of devotion; and, in the meanwhile, her soldiers took possession of the place.

Artemisia is said to have been desperately in love with a young man named Dardanus, who slighted her, which enraged her to such a degree, that she commanded his eyes to be put out whilst he slept; and finding her passion unconquerable, soon afterwards flung herself from the top of the famous promontory of Leucas into the sea.

F. C. Female Worthies, &c.

ARTEMISIA II. *Queen of Caria, Sister and Wife of Mausoleus,*

IMMORTALISED herself by the honours she paid to the memory of her husband, to whom she erected, at Halicarnassus, a magnificent tomb, which was esteemed one of the seven wonders of the world; and from which all succeeding monuments have obtained the name of Mausoleums. Pliny and Aulus Gellius have given a description of it; and the latter adds,—“ she put the ashes of her husband every day into her drink, that she might become his living tomb! and that she established grand prizes for the learned who should make the best panegyric on Mausoleus!” but died of grief before this magnificent edifice was completed, two years after the death of her husband.

The grief of Artemisia did not prevent her watching the safety of the state. The Rhodians had formed a design to dethrone her. She went to war with them, and
drove

drove them back to the walls of their city, which she besieged in person, and took in the year 351, B.C. She treated the inhabitants with rigour, and caused two statues to be erected, one of the city of Rhodes habited like a slave, and the other of herself marking it with a hot iron. This monument remained a long time, to the shame of the vanquished, because it was a religious tenet with them, never to destroy even the trophies of their enemies; but they afterwards built walls round it to screen it from public view.

F. C.; Female Worthies, &c.

ARUNDEL, (BLANCHE, LADY) *Daughter of Edward Somerset, Earl of Worcester. Died 1649, aged 66.*

WARDOUR Castle being summoned, May 2, 1643, by the parliamentary forces under Sir Edward Hungerford, to surrender, the Lady Arundel, who commanded it in the absence of her husband, refused to deliver it up, alledging, that she had orders from her lord to keep it, and those orders she was determined to obey. On this reply, the cannon were drawn up, and the battery commenced, which continued from Wednesday till the following Monday. The castle contained but twenty-five fighting men. During the siege two mines were sprung, by the explosion of which, every room in the fortress was shaken and endangered. The besiegers offered, more than once, to give quarter to the women and children, on condition that the besieged should surrender their arms at discretion. But the ladies of the family disdained to sacrifice their brave friends and faithful servants to their own safety; and when the latter were almost worn out by watching, they, with their female servants, assisted in loading the musquets,

quets, and in administering refreshments to their intrepid defenders.

For nine days was the castle thus defended; but, finding there was no hope of holding out longer, a parley was demanded, and the castle surrendered on honourable terms. But when the besiegers had taken possession, one article alone, that of sparing the lives of the inhabitants was observed. They destroyed the fine paintings, took the ladies and children to Shaftesbury, whither five cart-loads of their richest furniture and hangings were carried in triumph. The castle, the park, every thing was destroyed; and the loss of the earl of Arundel, on this occasion, was computed at one hundred thousand pounds.

Conceiving their prisoners insecure at Shaftesbury, it was proposed to remove them to Bath, which, at that time was infected both with the plague and small-pox. Lady Arundel, alarmed for her children, remonstrated against this barbarous purpose, determined that force only should effect it; and, afraid of exciting the indignation of the people, her adversaries relinquished the design, though they cruelly separated her from her young children, who were carried captives to Dorchester.

Lady Arundel is buried with her husband, near the altar of an elegant chapel, at Wardour Castle. Under the inscription on their tomb is this verse from the Proverbs :

“ Who shall find a valiant woman? The price of her is as things brought from afar off, and from the uttermost coast. The heart of her husband trusteth in her.”

Seward's Anecdotes.

ARUNDEL,

ARUNDEL (MARY) *Daughter of Sir Thomas Arundel, Wife, first of Robert Ratcliff, who died 1566, secondly of Henry Howard, Earl of Arundel,*

WAS a learned lady. She translated into English, from the Latin, the wise sayings and eminent deeds of the emperor Alexander Severus. This is dedicated to her father, and the manuscript is in the royal library at Westminster. She translated also from Greek into Latin, Select sentences of the Seven wise Grecian Philosophers. In the same library is preserved of her writing, Similies collected from the books of Plato, Aristotle, Seneca, and other philosophers.

Female Worthies, &c.

ASKEW, or AYSCOUGH (ANNE) *Daughter of Sir William Askew, of Kelsay, in Lincolnshire, Wife of a Mr. Kyne, burnt July, 16, 1546, aged 25.*

A MATCH having been made by the parents of this lady, and of Mr. Kyne, between the son of the latter and her elder sister, who died before it took place; Sir William having paid part of the portion, compelled his second daughter, Anne, a young woman of great beauty, to accept the hand of her intended brother-in-law much against her inclination, though after the marriage had taken place, she fulfilled her duties as a wife and mother, in a most exemplary manner. The doctrines of the reformers making, at that time, much noise, Anne, who was both learned and pious in a high degree, applied herself to reading the Bible, and became a protestant; which so offended her husband, that, by the suggestions of the priests, he drove her violently from his house. On this cruel usage, she came to
London

London to procure a divorce, and to seek the protection of those at court who pretended, or did favour the protestant cause. But it was not long before, by the procurement of her husband, and the vigilance of the priests, she was taken into custody, and several times examined concerning her faith, of which she herself wrote a long account, afterwards published by bishop Bale.

Her first examination was in March, 1545, by Christopher Dare, inquisitor; afterwards by a certain priest, by the lord mayor of London, and the bishop's chancellor, upon the usual topics of transubstantiation, reading the scriptures, of masses for the help of departed souls, and other articles; to which she gave very proper and pertinent answers. Then she was committed to the Compter, where she was kept eleven days, no friend being permitted to speak with her, nor any bail or sureties to be taken for her deliverance from prison.

On March 23, Mr. Britayne, her cousin, obtained leave to visit her in the Compter, and endeavoured all he could to bail her. First, with the mayor, then with the chancellor, and, lastly, with Bonner, bishop of London. This occasioned her to be brought before his lordship, on March 23d, who, with much seeming kindness, told her he was sorry for her troubles, but withal, desired to know her opinion in such things as were alledged against her; and, after much discourse with the bishop and the rest, about transubstantiation, the mass, &c. she was at last bailed, her cousin Mr. Britayne, and Mr. Spilman, of Gray's Inn, being sureties.

Not long after this she was again apprehended, brought before the king's council at Greenwich, and examined by chancellor Wriothesly, Gardiner, bishop
of

of Winchester, Dr. Cox, and Dr. Robinson, upon the old topics ; but not being able to convince her of her supposed errors, she was sent to Newgate, though extremely ill.

She was soon after condemned to be burnt, as a heretic, which she denied being. “ But, as concerning the faith which I uttered and wrote to the council, I would not (I said) deny it, because I knew it true. After that, they willed me, to have a priest, and then I smiled ; then they asked me if it were not good ? I said, I would confess my faults unto my God. For I was sure he would hear me with favour. And so we were condemned with a quest.”

After her condemnation, her chief support was the goodness of her cause, which afforded her great consolation ; and even seems to have made her entertain some hopes of a pardon, even from this unjust tribunal, as appears from two letters which she wrote to the king and the lord chancellor ; asserting, in a general but simple way, her own innocence : that she abhorred all heresies, and believed, concerning the supper of the Lord, all that he himself said, and all that was taught by the true church.

Then she proceeds to give an account of her examination and inhuman treatment after her departure from Newgate : that she went from thence to the sign of the Crown, where Mr. Rich and the bishop of London endeavoured, with all their power, to pervert her from the faith, charging her to discover all those she knew of her opinion, particularly some ladies of quality, which, by evasive answers, she refused to do. Then they sent her to the Tower, and put her upon the rack, and kept her on it a long time, because she would make no confession. “ And because,” says she, “ I lay
still

still and did not cry, my lord chancellor and Mr. Rich took pains to rack me with their own hands till I was well nigh dead. Then the lieutenant caused me to be loosed from the rack. Incontinently I swooned, and then they recovered me again. After that I sat two long hours reasoning with my lord chancellor, upon the bare floor, whereas he, with many flattering words, persuaded me to leave my opinions. But my Lord God (I thank his everlasting goodness) gave me grace to persevere, and will do, I hope, to the end.

“ Then I was brought to an house and laid in a bed, with as weary and painful bones as ever had patient Job ; I thank my God therefore. Then my lord chancellor sent me word, if I would leave my opinions I should want nothing : but, if I would not, I should forthwith go to Newgate, and so be burned. I sent him again word, that I would rather die than to break my faith.”

Being led to the stake, letters were brought from the lord chancellor, offering her the king's pardon if she would recant. She not only refused to look at them, but returned this answer : “ that she came not thither to deny her Lord and Master.” The same letters were also tendered to the other three who suffered with her, who, imitating her example, refused to look at them. Whereupon the lord mayor commanded the fire to be kindled, crying out *fiat justitia*. And the faggots being lighted, she surrendered her soul to God.

Female Worthies.

ASPASIA, a Courtesan of Athens, Mistress and Wife of Pericles.

THE education of the Grecian ladies in general, and particularly the Athenians, from their secluded lives,

was

was scarcely superior to that of their female slaves, with whom they lived, shut up in a part of the house appropriated to them ; associating little with one another, and scarcely at all with the men, even their nearest relations ; seldom appearing in public, but at those religious festivals, in which ancient custom prescribed that the women should bear a part. To this cause must be attributed that comparative superiority through which some of the Grecian courtesans attained extraordinary renown. Carefully instructed in every elegant accomplishment, and, from early years, accustomed to converse with men, even of the highest rank and most approved talents ; if they possessed understanding, it became cultivated, and their houses were resorted to, not merely in the low pursuit of pleasure, but often to enjoy, in the most polished society, the charms of female conversation, which, with women of rank and character, was totally forbidden.

Aspasia was a Milesian, the daughter of Axiochus, for her celebrity has preserved her father's name. With uncommon beauty were joined, in Aspasia, still more uncommon talents ; wit, natural eloquence, improved by study, a perfect knowledge of moral philosophy, and great skill in poetry ; and, with a mind thus cultivated, she possessed manners so decent, that, in more advanced years, not only Socrates professed to have learned eloquence of her, but the Athenian ladies used to accompany their husbands to her house, for the instruction of her conversation, which was not more brilliant than solid. Pericles, the enlightened ruler of Athens, became her most passionate admirer. He passed his little leisure from public business mostly in company with Aspasia and a few select friends, avoiding that extensive society in which the Athenians in
general

general delighted. Some say that Pericles made his court to Aspasia only on account of her wisdom and political abilities. It was even believed by the most intelligent Athenians, and, among them, by Socrates himself, that she composed the celebrated funeral oration pronounced by him in honour of those that were slain in the Salamian war. (It is well known he used to write down all his speeches before he pronounced them). It is probable enough that Pericles undertook that war to avenge the quarrels of the Milesians, at the suggestion of Aspasia, who was their countrywoman, and is said to have accompanied him in this expedition, and to have built a temple to perpetuate the memory of his victory.

Plutarch relates that Pericles and his wife living very unhappily together, they parted; she was married to another, and he to Aspasia, for whom he had the tenderest regard. This connection was not likely to escape satire. She was called, on the public stage, the Omphale of her time, the Dejanira, and even the Juno. Many circumstances of the administration were malevolently attributed to her influence, and much gross abuse and improbable calumny vented against both of them.

Hermippus, a comic poet, prosecuted Aspasia for impiety, which seems, in their idea, to have consisted in disputing the existence of their imaginary gods, and introducing new opinions about celestial appearances. But she was acquitted, though much against the tenor of the law, by means of Pericles, who, (according to Eschines), shed many tears in his application for mercy in her behalf.

After the death of Pericles, at the age of 70, 1429, B. C. we hear nothing of her; but that Lysicles, a

grazier, by his intercourse with her, became the most considerable man in Athens.

The eloquence of this accomplished woman, the power which she obtained over the mind of Pericles, and (if we may judge from his actions) that power was exerted for laudable purposes, and the high terms in which she was spoken of, even by philosophers, entitle her to admiration, though mingled with regret.

Plutarch; Mitford.

ASPASIA, or MILTO, *Mistress of Cyrus. Born about 421 Years B. C. of free Parents, at Phocis, in Ionia,*

WAS brought up virtuously, though in poverty, and being very beautiful, with the singularity of fine light hair, naturally curling, attracted the notice of one of the satraps of Cyrus the younger, who forced her father to deliver her, against her consent, to him, for the seraglio of this prince. She was presented to Cyrus, with some others trained to please; but her modesty, dignity and grief, so affected him, that he applied himself seriously to gain her affections; equality was established between them; and their union, the fame of which was spread all over Greece, and even in Persia, was esteemed a marriage. In effect, the regularity of her manners and conduct, and the respect he paid to her understanding, by consulting her on the most important affairs (a confidence which he had never cause to repent) gave her all the consideration of a wife. Cyrus afterwards made her quit the name of Milto, which she had till then borne, and take that which Aspasia of Miletus by her wit and beauty had rendered so celebrated. A rich chain of gold being sent to him, of curious workmanship, he presented it to Aspasia, saying,
‘ it

‘it was worthy the wife or daughter of a king;’ but she refusing it, advised him to send it to Parisatis, whose favourite son he was, who was so well pleased with her moderation, that she returned her many grand presents, and a large sum of gold—all of which Aspasia delivered to Cyrus, after praising the generosity of his mother. “It may be of service to you,” said she, “who are my riches and my ornament.” She availed herself only of the change in her fortune to rescue her father from the state of poverty in which he had formerly lived.

Excited by his mother and his own ambition, Cyrus attempted to dethrone his elder brother Artaxerxes, but perished in the trial. In the year 401, B. C. Aspasia was taken by the army of the conqueror, and, on his commanding her to be sought, they brought her before him loaded with chains. At this Artaxerxes was very angry, put her conductors in prison, and ordered her to be clothed in magnificent apparel. The tears of Aspasia flowed more abundantly than before. She had tenderly loved Cyrus, and regretted him sincerely; but at length was forced to accept the dresses which the king had sent her, and was soon ranked the first among his women. His wife Statira was still living; and as he could not therefore marry her, he bestowed on her nearly the same honours as a queen. But it was long before his attentions and respect could efface the remembrance of Cyrus from her heart.

F. C.

ASTELL, (MARY) *Daughter of Mr. Astell, a Merchant at Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Died in 1731, aged 63.*

AN uncle of this lady, who was a clergyman, having observed in her proofs of a superior capacity, generously undertook to be her preceptor; and, under his tuition, she learned Italian and French, and made a considerable progress in logic, philosophy, and the mathematics.

At the age of twenty, she left Newcastle and went to London, where, and at Chelsea, she spent the remaining part of her life. Here she assiduously prosecuted her studies, and acquired very considerable attainments in all the branches of polite literature.

About this time, the Rev. John Norris published his *Practical Discourses upon several Divine Subjects*; which gave occasion for many excellent letters between him and Mrs. Astell on the love of God; which, at the request of Mr. Norris, she suffered him to publish in 1695, without her name; a precaution which their merit rendered useless.

She observed and lamented the defects in the education of her sex; which, she said, were the principal causes of their running into so many follies and improprieties.

To remedy so great an evil, she wrote and published, in 1696, an ingenious treatise, entitled, *A serious Proposal to the Ladies, for the Advancement of their true and greatest Interest*, &c. and, some time after, a second part, under the same title, with this addition; *wherein a Method is offered for the Improvement of their Minds*. Both these performances were published together in 1696, and had, in some measure, the desired effect. Nay, the scheme in her proposal seemed so rational,

that a certain opulent lady intended to have given 10,000*l.* towards erecting a sort of college for the education and improvement of the female sex ; and as a retreat to those ladies who preferred retirement and study to the noise and hurry of the world. Bishop Burnet, hearing of the design, went to the lady, and powerfully remonstrated against it, telling her it would look like paving the way for popish orders, and that it would be reputed a nunnery ; in consequence of which, the design was relinquished.

I do not find that for seven years after she printed any thing, except *An Essay in Defence of the Female Sex. In a Letter to a Lady. Written by a Lady.* Yet she was as intent on her studies, during that time, as ever ; and when she has accidentally seen needless visitors coming, whom she knew to be incapable of conversing on useful subjects, she would look out at the window, and jestingly tell them, Mrs. Astell was not at home.

By this time she was become intimately acquainted with many classic authors. Those she admired most were Xenophon, Plato, Hierocles, Tully, Seneca, Epictetus, and M. Antoninus.

In the year 1700, she published a book entitled *Reflections on Marriage*, occasioned, as it is said, by a disappointment she experienced in a marriage-contract with an eminent clergyman. However that might be, in the next edition of her book, 1705, she added a preface, in answer to some objections, which perhaps is the strongest defence that ever appeared in print, of the rights and abilities of her own sex.

Observing, as she thought, the pernicious artifices of the sectaries, she attacked them with vigour, and for a considerable time engaged the attention of the public

by her productions. Nor was she less assiduous in examining and confuting the doctrines of some, who pretending to be true sons of the church, were introducing dangerous positions and tenets, derogatory to the honour of our blessed Saviour, his divinity, &c.

Among these treatises, she thought none threatened more danger to the establishment than Dr. d'Avenant's *Moderation a Virtue* ; and *Essay on Peace and War*. In answer, and by way of antidote, she gave, in 1704, an admirable composition, entitled *Moderation truly stated*, &c. which will be a lasting proof how admirably she was versed in our constitution both in church and state. The same year Dr. d'Avenant published a new edition of his works, with remarks on her's, to which she immediately replied, in a postscript. However industrious she was to conceal herself, the learned soon discovered her to be the author, and gave her the applause due to her merit. Some very great men bear testimony to the merit of her works, such as Hickes, Walker, Norris, Dodwell, and Evelyn. The polished Atterbury also gives her credit for exerting the pen of controversy with masculine force and judgment ; but remarks, that her objections and truths are pushed too home, and are expressed, when implication might have done as well, and been more polite. Yet simplicity and plainness are, perhaps, more essential in controversial points than in any other.

She wrote various other treatises, both on controversial and religious subjects, particularly, *An impartial Inquiry into the Causes of Rebellion and Civil Wars in this Kingdom, in an Examination of Dr. Kennet's Sermon, Jan. 30, 1703-4. A fair way with dissenters and their patrons, not writ by Mr. Lindsay, or any other furious Jacobite,*

Jacobite, whether a clergyman or a layman ; but by a very moderate person and dutiful subject of the Queen, 1704. The Christian Religion, as practised by a Daughter of the Church of England, 1705. Six familiar Essays upon Marriage, Crosses in Love, and Friendship, 1706. Bart'lemy Fair, or an Inquiry after Wit, 1700, occasioned by Colonel Hunter's celebrated Letter on Enthusiasm. It was republished in 1722, without the words 'Bart'lemy Fair.' Living and conversing with the fashionable world, she led a holy life : but though she practised the severest virtue, her mind was generally calm and serene, and her deportment and conversation highly entertaining and facetious. She would say, 'The good Christian only has reason, and he always ought to be cheerful ; and that dejected looks and melancholy airs were very unseemly in a Christian.

But though she was easy and affable to others, she was severe towards herself. She was abstemious in a very great degree ; frequently living many days together on bread and water : and at other times, when at home, rarely eat any dinner till night, and then sparingly. She would frequently say, abstinence was her best physic. And observe, that those who indulge themselves in eating and drinking, could not be so well disposed or prepared, either for study, or the regular and devout service of their Creator.

She enjoyed an uninterrupted state of health, till a few years before her death, when a cancer in her breast, which she concealed from every body, except a few of her most intimate acquaintance, impaired her constitution very much. She managed it herself, till it was absolutely necessary to submit to amputation, which

she endured with the greatest intrepidity. But her health and strength, after this, declined apace, and at length being confined to her bed, and finding the time of her dissolution drew nigh, she ordered her coffin and shroud to be made, and brought to her bed-side, as a constant memento of her approaching fate, and that her mind might not stray one moment from God, its proper object. Her thoughts were so entirely fixed on another world, that for some days before her death she earnestly desired that no company, not even her dearest friends, might be permitted to come to her, that she might not be disturbed in her last moments. She was buried at Chelsea.

ATHENAIS, *afterwards the Empress Eudocia, Daughter of Leontius, a Sophist and Athenian Philosopher. Born at Athens about the Year 393 or 400. Died at Jerusalem about 466.*

By the care of her father, Athenais received a most elegant and liberal education. To the learning and philosophy of the Greeks, she added the arts of elocution and music, and being likewise exceedingly beautiful, her father, on his death, left her only one hundred pieces of gold ; saying, that her unequalled merit was a sufficient portion. Shocked at this unjust distribution, and at the scanty resource left to her, who had been accustomed to live in affluence, Athenais implored her brothers not to insist upon the will, but to permit her to come in for her share of the inheritance. Alive only to interest, they refused her request with harshness, and forced her to seek a home with an aunt by the mother's side. This lady, in concert with a
sister

sister of Leontius, instituted a process against her brothers; and, taking her to Constantinople, made the princess Pulcheria acquainted with her situation.

The graceful figure, the fine eyes, and fair curling hair of the suppliant; her eloquence and modesty, strongly interested Pulcheria, who was then seeking a wife for her brother Theodosius, surnamed the Young; and when she found her mind so highly gifted, and her morals irreproachable, she contrived that he and his friend Paulinus, without her knowledge, should see her while conversing with the princess. Theodosius was deeply smitten; she was instructed in the truths of the Christian religion, which she embraced in 421, being baptized by the name of *Ælia Eudocia* and married to the emperor the same year, but not declared empress till after the birth of her daughter *Eudoxia* in 422. Hearing of her good fortune, her brothers fled; but causing them to be brought to Constantinople, she engaged the emperor to make one prefect of *Illyria*, and to bestow upon the other one of the principal employments in the royal palace: "I regard you," said she, "as the instruments of my elevation. It was not your cruelty, but the hand of Providence, which brought me here, to raise me to the throne."

Arrayed in the imperial purple of the east, she forgot not her former taste for study. She improved herself in Latin as well as Greek literature, was mistress both of the active and contemplative parts of philosophy; perfectly understood the art of speaking with elocution, and reasoning with judgment: in all the methods of proving and conversing by arguments, as well as of refuting opponents, no male philosopher was ever a greater proficient: she attained to a more perfect knowledge of astronomy, of geometry, and the proportion

tion of numbers, than any could boast of in her time, and composed poems which were the admiration of her own and many succeeding ages. One mentioned by Socrates, was on a victory gained by Theodosius over the Persians: she translated into verse the five books of Moses, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, the prophecies of Daniel and Zechariah. Photius speaks highly of the merit of the poetry, and fidelity of the translation; also a poem in three books, on the martyrs Cyprian and Justinia. This poem, almost entire, was found lately at Florence, in the library of Laurentius de Medicis. "Who would suspect," says Dupin, "to find a woman ranked among ecclesiastical writers? There have been learned women in all ages, but very few divines among them. It is still the more to be wondered at, that an empress, amidst the pleasures and luxuries of a court, should employ herself in writing on theology?"

In 438, the empress undertook a journey to Jerusalem, to perform a vow she had made on the marriage of her daughter. She made magnificent presents to the churches, not only of that city, but of all the others, in her route. At Antioch, not having forgotten the taste for declamation she acquired in the school of her father, seated on a throne of gold, enriched with precious stones, and in presence of the senate and people, she pronounced the eulogium of that city, which ended with two verses from Homer, signifying that she was proud of deriving her descent from the same source as the people of Antioch. Delighted with her munificence, and flattered by her courtesy, the inhabitants erected a golden statue of her in their senate house, and another of bronze in the museum.

Athenais, or Eudocia, had as yet interfered very little in public affairs, which were principally conducted by
Pulcheria;

Pulcheria ; and, though it added to her own power, the latter deplored the inglorious indolence of her brother, who always signed every paper presented to him without observation. Wishing to show him the folly of this conduct, she once gave him a petition, in which she asked the empress for her slave, which he also signed without reading. On the discovery of this trick, the emperor was not pleased, and Eudocia was highly offended. Seduced by flatterers, she began to envy the influence of Pulcheria, and the latter soon fell into disgrace with the emperor and retired from court. But Eudocia, though of the finest capacity, was unskilled in the practical part of government ; and felt that she was not able to guide the helm, which the steadier hands of Pulcheria had held so many years with wisdom and success : nor did public misfortunes alone assail her ; the emperor became her adversary.

Paulinus had been his friend from childhood, and was now the cherished companion of his riper years. His praises of Eudocia had contributed to raise her to the throne, and he was more esteemed by both on that account. With the most amiable qualities of the heart, he possessed a taste for literature, which made her prize his conversation highly.

Theodosius became jealous on some trifling cause and, encouraged by his courtiers, found a pretext to send Paulinus to Cesarea, and cause him to be murdered. The empress felt the most lively grief, not merely at the injustice, but at the stigma cast on her honour. She withdrew from court. Theodosius, filled with black suspicion, attempted not to recal her. At last, detesting both court and diadem, and regretting the obscure life she resigned twenty years before, she asked, and easily obtained permission to retire to Jerusalem. Even there
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the jealousy of the emperor pursued her : and having heard that Severus the priest, and the deacon John, had accompanied her in this voluntary exile, he caused them to be put to death. Rendered irritable by insults, the empress was roused, by this inhuman action, to such an excess of fury, that she caused Saturninus (the minister of the emperor in this act) to be murdered. This crime blackened her character, instead of avenging her innocence. She lived twenty years longer, touched with the truest grief and penitence for that rash act, abounding in works of benevolence and usefulness, constructing churches and monasteries, and conferring many privileges on Jerusalem. She was buried in the church of St. Stephen, and declared, even when dying, that her union with Paulinus had never been criminal ; that she had only loved in him the friend of Theodosius, and a generous protector, who had seconded the kind designs of Pulcheria.

Histoire du Bas Empire, par le Beau, &c.

ATHYRTE, *Daughter of Sesostris, King of Egypt,*

WAS skilled in all the learning of the times, particularly in astronomy, as it was then understood by the Magi. She encouraged her father to pursue the chimerical project of conquering the world, by assuring him of success from her divinations, from her dreams in the temples, and from the prodigies she had seen in the air.

Alexander's History of Women.

ATTENDOLI,

ATTENDOLI, (MARGARET DE) *a Neapolitan Lady of the Fourth Century, Wife of Michael de Cotignola, and Sister of the great Sforza, founder of the House of the Sforzas, Dukes of Milan.*

OF obscure birth and situation, this family seemed all to inherit the same heroic spirit. When James, count de la Marche, came to espouse the queen of Naples, Sforza, then grand-constable, was sent to meet him; but that prince threw him, his relations, and suite into prison, thinking by this means to attain, with more ease, the tyrannic power, which he afterwards assumed. When the news of Sforza's arrest arrived, his sister, with her husband, and many relations who had served with honour in his troops, were at Tricarico. They assembled an army, of which Margaret took the command. The ill-treatment the queen experienced from her new husband, soon made the revolt general, and he was at length besieged in a castle, where the conditions proposed to him were, to be contented with the title of lieutenant-general of the kingdom, and give Sforza his liberty. Knowing the value of this hostage, he sent deputies to Margaret, menacing him with instant death, if Tricarico, was not given up to him. Anxious for her brother, but indignant at the proposition, she instantly formed the resolution of imprisoning the deputies, whose families, alarmed for their safety, ceased not to intercede, till the count consented to set Sforza and his friends at liberty, and to re-instate him in his former situation.

AUBESBINE, (MADELEINE DE L') *a French Lady of great Wit and Beauty, Wife of Nicholas de Neuville, Lord of Villeroi. Died on her own demesne, in 1596.*

THIS lady, whose works were never printed, was
highly

highly extolled by the great men of the day, particularly by Ronsard. She translated, in verse, the epistles of Ovid, and wrote a great many original pieces.

F. C. &c.

AUNOY, or AULNOY (MARIA CATHARINE DE BERNEVILLE, COUNTESS D') *Died at Paris, 1705, aged 50.*

THIS singular and celebrated lady was the daughter of Monsieur Jumel de Barneville, descended from one of the best families in Normandy, who had served in the army with great reputation. Her mother was also of distinguished birth; but, being left a widow when very young, she married the marquis de Gadaigne, and spent the remainder of her days at Madrid, where she had obtained a considerable pension of Charles II. which was continued to her by Philip V. Her daughter, who married the count d'Aulnoy, is described as a woman whose amiable character, great talents, and lively turn of conversation, made her society sought for with avidity; nothing escaped her penetration. Whatever was the subject of conversation, her opinion was always given with judgment and precision; she wrote with astonishing facility: a strong proof of which are the number of volumes which she published. The account she gives of her travels in Spain, is written with a great deal of spirit, character, and incident. In her *Memoires de la Cour d'Espagne*, she relates every circumstance worthy of observation that passed at the court of Charles the Second. *Les Memoires de la Cour d'Angleterre*, likewise relates some singular anecdotes which happened in the reign of our Charles the Second; but as it does not appear she

ever

ever was in England, they are, most likely, chiefly from report and invention, which the intriguing spirit then prevalent gave sufficient grounds for. Her *Memoires Historiques* of Europe, from 1672 to 1679, are part fiction, and part truth. Her romances are still read with interest—They are *Adventures of Hypolytus, Earl of Douglas*; an historical one of *John de Bourbon, Prince of Carency*, 1692, and *Tales of the Fairies*, in 4 vols. Her daughter, Madam de Heere, likewise wrote with applause in prose and verse.

Memoirs of French Ladies by Mrs. Thickness.

BAAT, (CATHERINE) *a learned Swedish Lady of the 17th Century,*

WHO wrote genealogical tables of distinguished families, ornamented and painted by herself; in which she has rectified the faults of a former genealogist. This work is highly spoken of by the literati of Sweden, but has not been made public.

F. C.

BACON, (Lady ANNE) *second Daughter of Anthony Coke, was born probably at Giddy-hall, in Essex, about 1528; Wife of the Lord-keeper, Sir Nicholas Bacon, and Mother of the illustrious Francis Bacon.*

SHE had a liberal education; and, having added much acquired knowledge to great natural endowments, made an eminent figure among the literati of that period, and hence acquired so extraordinary a reputation, that it has been said she was constituted governess to Edward VI. If this be a fact, it is a very surprising one; since she could not be much more than twenty-five years of age at the death of that young monarch, and only nineteen when he began to reign. However that may be, it is certain that she early became distinguished
for

for piety, virtue, and learning, and that she was skilled in the Greek, Latin, and Italian languages. Before she married Sir Nicholas Bacon, she had given to the world a specimen of her literary industry, in translating, out of Italian into English, twenty-five sermons, written by Bernardine Ochine, a celebrated divine of that age, concerning the predestination and election of God, published about 1550. Not long after her marriage, she again exerted herself, much to her own honour, and to the advantage of her country. The masterly pen of Bishop Jewel had been employed in drawing up in the Latin tongue, an *Apology for the Church of England*. As the book made a great noise in the world, and excited no small degree of alarm among the advocates of the Popish communion, the common people of England were earnestly desirous of becoming acquainted with its contents. And lady Bacon determined to gratify the curiosity, and promote the edification of her countrymen, by translating the work; which she is said to have done, not only in a faithful, but in an elegant manner, considering the time. When finished, she sent the copy to archbishop Parker, for his perusal, as a person to whom the care of the church of England and of its doctrines chiefly belonged. Another copy was sent by her to bishop Jewel, to be overlooked by him, lest she should, in any point, have mistaken his meaning. The translation was accompanied by an epistle in Greek, which he answered in the same language. Both the bishop and the archbishop, after reading over the version, found it to be so correct as not to require the alteration of a single word, and returned it to her in print, to prevent the delay which her modesty might occasion in the publication, which took place in 1564, 4to. and

and again in 1600, 12mo. A letter written to her by the archbishop on the occasion, and which is preserved by Ballard, is highly to her honour. That her literary reputation extended beyond her own country, is evident, from the famous Theodore Beza's dedication of his *Meditations* to her.

In Birch's *Memoirs* of the reign of queen Elizabeth, lady Bacon's name frequently occurs ; and we there meet with some of her letters at full length, and with extracts from others, which fully justify the following character given of her by the historian now mentioned. " She frequently introduces Greek as well as Latin into her letters, sometimes with a view of secrecy, but, more commonly, from the custom of that age, wherein such an intermixture of languages had less the air of pedantry and affectation than it would have in the present. She was very strict in the duties of piety, and inclined to the principles of the puritans, to whom her husband had not been thought unfavourable : but her temper seems to have been severe and peevish, especially in the latter years of her life, when it was probably affected by her ill health. Her advice and remonstrances to her elder son Anthony, were generally delivered in a style of authority, and in terms of reproach, which rendered them less acceptable and effectual than otherwise they might have been."

She survived her husband, and was living in 1591. It is probable she died about the beginning of the reign of king James I. at Gorhambury, near St. Alban's, in Hertfordshire, and lies buried in St. Michael's church there, but without any monument or inscription to her memory.

Female Worthies ; New Ann. Register.

BALLON, (LOUISA - BLANCHE TERESA DE)

Foundress of the Order of the reformed Bernardine Nuns, and of many other religious Establishments in France and Savoy. Born in 1591, at Vauchi near Geneva, died 1668, aged 77,

WAS daughter of a gentleman of the bedchamber to Charles Emanuel, duke of Savoy. She was early devoted, by her parents, to a religious life; at seven years of age, being sent to a convent, where a relation was the superior, and where she took the habit of the order. St. Frances de Sales, who was of her family, contributed not a little to increase her zeal. She soon became interested in reforming the rules and manners of religious establishments, which, according to her notions of self-denial and mortification, were not sufficiently severe. She was elected abbess at Rumilli, a little town in Savoy, and afterwards obtained permission to name her new order, 'Daughters of Providence.' She travelled to different monasteries, spreading every where her new regulations, which were sometimes adopted by others: but she was much hurt by the republication of her institutions by a Parisian abbess, who ventured to make some alterations, whether judicious or otherwise cannot be said; but Louisa Ballon was much displeased at it.

F. C.

BARBE, a Virgin and Martyr of Nicomedia, in Asia Minor, flourished in the Reign of Maximin.

HER father was a Pagan, rich and of illustrious birth. To beauty, Barbe joined fine taste and a cultivated mind, which felt dissatisfaction at the fables imposed

posed on her belief. Scorning idols, and zealous to know the Creator of all things, she learned that a wise man of Alexandria, named Origen, preached an only and true God. Filled with joy at the news, she wrote to him secretly, to engage him to instruct her in the religion he professed. His answer, brought by a priest named Valentine, so satisfied her mind, that she was baptized by him. With the advantages she possessed, she was sought in marriage by the most distinguished young men in the city; and Dioscorus, her father, one day told her, it was time to think of changing her situation: but she prayed him not to constrain her to make a choice, observing that she would rather die: she then discovered her religion to him, and spoke with contempt of Paganism. Irritated at the discovery, her father himself denounced her as a Christian; and, after her experiencing the most cruel and barbarous punishment, he is reported to have himself severed her head from her body.

F. C.

BARBIER, (MARIANNE) *a learned French Lady, born at Orleans; died 1745,*

WAS early distinguished for her attachment to literature; and her poetical productions, which showed great fertility of genius, and were composed in a pleasing and elegant stile. She wrote much; two of her odes, one, on Wisdom, and the other on Beauty, are highly esteemed. Encouraged by success, she fixed her residence at Paris, and began to write for the theatre. Her plays, though not of the first order, were applauded by the public. They consisted of five tragedies, a comedy, and three musical pieces. The first were *Arria*

and *Pætus*, represented in 1702; *Cornelia, Mother of the Gracchi*, in 1703; *Tomyris*, in 1707, and *the Death of Cæsar*; the fifth, named *Joseph*, was never either performed or printed. Her comedy, *le Falcon*, was brought forward in 1719. The three operas were *les Fêtes de l'Ete*; *le Jugement de Paris*; and *les Plaisirs de la Campagne*.

The friendship which subsisted between Mademoiselle Barbier and l'Abbe Pellegrin, made her enemies attribute her theatrical works to him. But as her wit and poetical talents were before conspicuous, there is no reason to suppose her incapable of writing them; and their success with the public, with their number, rendered it improbable the real author sacrificed them to her.

F. C.

BARNES—See BERNERS.

BARONI, (LEONORA) *famous for her fine voice and musical Talents, was born at Naples; but passed the greatest Part of her Life at Rome,*

WAS the daughter of Adriani Baroni, an excellent female singer of Mantua. With less beauty than her mother, Leonora excelled her in the sweetness and power of her voice, and had a more profound knowledge of music. She had a good understanding and a pleasing talent for poetry; and, what was still more, her conduct was without reproach. In a treatise on the Music of Italy, published at Paris, in 1672, she is said, from her knowledge of musical composition, perfectly to have understood what she sung, and to have pronounced the words clear and full. She sung with modest confidence
and

and gravity. The powers of her voice were extensive, true, sweet, and clear; sinking and rising without effort and without grimace. Her whole deportment was dignified by a noble simplicity, neither contaminated by design or affectation, corrupted by the flatteries of the gay, or the poetical applauses of the learned.

Her poems appear in different collections.

F. C.

BARRE, (MADAME) *Mistress of Lewis XV. King of France,*

A WEAK and licentious character, who became a victim to the guillotine, on account of her riches, which awakened the rapacity of the revolutionary faction.

F. C.

BARRI DE S. AUNEZ, (CONSTANCE DE CESELI) *Wife of.*

THE town of Leucates, in Languedoc, being besieged by the faction of the league in 1590, M. de Barri, who was the governor, was taken prisoner, under pretence of demanding an interview with him. He, however, contrived, at the moment, to write to his wife, whose talents and courage he was well acquainted with. He begged her to take the command of the town, and to defend it to the last extremity. Not losing a moment's time, she obeyed him, maintaining order and shewing herself often upon the walls with a pike in her hand, encouraging the garrison by her example. When the assailants perceived her plans and intrepidity, they sought to intimidate her by threatening to put

her husband to death, if she did not give up the place. She had large possessions, and offered all willingly to ransom him ; but said she would not buy even his life by an act of perfidy, at which he would blush. They put him likewise to the most cruel tortures, that he might command his wife to open the gates to them ; but he braved their menaces ; and, being obliged to raise the siege, they were atrocious enough to strangle him.

On receiving this news, Madame de Barri was struck with grief and horror ; but feeling that a Christian must not give way to vengeance, she opposed the wishes of the garrison to make reprisals on some gentlemen who were their prisoners ; and, in the hour of anguish, exerted herself to save their lives.

To do honour to her virtue, Henry IV. commanded her still to enjoy the government of Leucates, which she held for twenty-seven years.

F. C.

BARTOLI, (MINERVA) *an Italian Poetess of Urbino,*

OF repute at the end of the sixteenth and beginning of the seventeenth century.

BARTON, (ELIZABETH) *commonly called The holy Maid of Kent,*

WAS servant to one Thomas Knob, of Aldington, in Kent, 1525, about which time she was troubled with hysterical fits, which threw her body into terrible convulsions, the contortions of which she preserved after her cure ; and it was no difficult matter, in an age of credulity,

credulity, to make people believe there was something more in her fits than a bare paroxysm of the disease. The affair reaching the ears of one Masters, the parson of Aldington, he immediately thought of setting her up for a prophetess, in hopes thereby of propping the sinking foundation of the Romish church ; or, at least, to make his own chapel famous, and reap the advantages of pilgrimages, offerings, &c. To this end, his first care was to persuade her to believe, she had a supernatural impulse, and that what she said was truly prophetic. The distemper holding for some time, she had an opportunity of attaining such perfection in counterfeiting her fits, that, when cured, she could so exactly imitate them as to deceive any body ; for, having by her art brought the fit upon her, she would lie as it were in a trance for some time, then coming to herself (after many strange grimaces and odd gesticulations) she would break out into devout ejaculations, &c. pretending to prophesy, and see visions, &c. and was always particularly vehement against heresy and innovations.

This artful management, together with her pretended piety, deceived not only the common people, but several learned men. Warham, archbishop of Canterbury, ordered Masters to attend her carefully, and joined with him Dr. Bocking, a canon of Christchurch, in Canterbury, and others, to examine further into the affair. But notwithstanding this piece of outward ceremony, Warham, who was a zealous catholic, was not a little suspected, with some others, of countenancing the imposture under hand. She said, the blessed virgin had appeared to her, and told her, that she could never recover, till she went and visited her image in the famous chapel that was dedicated to her, and called the

Chap

Chapel of our Lady of Court-street. Accordingly, the day being made public, a mob of about 3000 people attended her there, as did likewise several persons of quality of both sexes, and the commissioners made a part of the procession.

At her entrance, she was saluted in a hymn with *Ave regina cœlorum* ; when she came before the image she fell down in one of her trances, delivering therein rhimes, speeches, &c. all tending to the honour of that saint and the Popish religion, and that she was called, by the inspiration of God, to be a religious, and that it was the will of our lady that Bocking should be her ghostly father.

It was now given out, that she was miraculously recovered of her former distemper ; and, on the report made by the commissioners, the archbishop ordered her to be placed in the nunnery of St. Sepulchre, in Canterbury, where she still carried on the imposture ; but the Romish clergy being apprehensive, that the king's marriage with Anne Boleyn would be detrimental to their religion, they set every instrument at work to prevent it ; and among the rest, Bocking and her other associates prevailed upon her to threaten the king with death, or the loss of his crown.

Elated with her former success, and the credit she had in the world for sanctity, she was hardy enough to be governed by this advice, and made no scruple to declare publicly, that in case the king proceeded in the divorce, and married another wife, while queen Catherine was living, he should not be king of England a month longer, but should die a villain's death. This she said was revealed to her in answer to a prayer she made to God, to know whether he approved of the king's proceeding or not. This was blazed by the
bishop

bishop of Rochester, and the queen's adherents throughout the kingdom, whose boldness and zeal incensed the king, who had hitherto despised her menaces, to order that, in November 1533, Elizabeth her accomplices should be brought to the Star-chamber.

Upon their examination, they all, without any rack or torture, confessed the whole to be a contrivance and imposture, and were first sentenced to stand at St. Paul's cross, on a scaffold built for the purpose, all sermon time; and afterwards the king's officers were to give every one of them their bill of confession, to be openly and publicly read by each, before the people, which was done the Sunday after; the bishop of Bangor preaching, and giving an account of their treasonable practices. From thence they were carried to the Tower, where they lay till the meeting of the parliament, during which time some of their accomplices sent messages to the nun, to encourage her to deny all she had said.

The thing being considered in parliament, it was judged a conspiracy against the king's life and crown. Elizabeth, Masters, Bocking, Deering, Bisby and Gold, were attainted of high treason; and Fisher, bishop of Rochester, and some others, among whom was Sir Thomas More, who had simply had the curiosity to go and see her, of misprision of treason, to forfeit their goods and chattels to the king, and be imprisoned during his pleasure. But all others, who had been corrupted in their allegiance by these impostors, were, at the intercession of the new queen, pardoned.

On the 21st of April, 1534, Elizabeth and her accomplices were drawn to Tyburn, where she made a speech, acknowledged her crime, and the justice of her

her sentence, and was then executed with the others, who were all beheaded, and their heads set up at different parts of the town. Her head, Stowe says, was set upon London-bridge.

Female Worthies.

BASSEPORTE, (MAGDALEN) *a French Artist of the last Century,*

FROM her childhood, followed the art of painting, and excelled in birds, plants, flowers, insects, reptiles, and almost all that belongs to natural history. Her works are regarded as chefs-d'œuvre, where art rivals nature for correctness in design, for delicacy and precision of colours. In 1788, though 78 years of age, this indefatigable artist still ventured to expose herself, for whole days, to the rays of the sun, in the most painful attitudes, to copy, for the cabinet of the king, any thing that nature offered to her view of beautiful or rare in the royal gardens.

F. C.

BASSI, (LAURA) *an Italian Lady, Native of Bologna, of great Virtue and Learning,*

RECEIVED a liberal education, not only in the more common accomplishments of the sex, but in the sciences and learned languages. Her singular attainments procured her, in 1732, the honourable title of Doctor of Philosophy. In 1745, she began to read lectures on experimental philosophy; which she continued to do till her death, in 1778. She married Dr. Joseph Verati.

Watkins's Biographical Dictionary.

BATILDA,

BATILDA, *Queen of France, Wife of Clovis II. descended from the Saxon Princes of England. Died 680, aged 45.*

THIS princess was stolen by the Danes or Normans, who ravaged all the maritime coasts of Europe, pillaged the houses of the inhabitants, and carried into captivity all they met with. She was taken to France, bought by Archambaud, mayor of the palace, and made cup-bearer at his table. The youth, the beauty, and modest graces of the young slave, awakened the warmest admiration in the bosom of her master : he gave her her liberty, and, on the death of his wife, offered her his hand. But, remembering her high birth, Batilda thought that of a subject unworthy of her. Yet she refused it with such address, that the pride which influenced her was not suspected. He redoubled his importunities, to avoid which she retired to a more distant situation, which she never left, till he took another wife. Visiting this lady, she was seen by the young king, who fell passionately in love with her. At that time they were not scrupulous about alliances. Clovis espoused the fair Batilda, whose beauty raised her to the throne, and whose merit deserved it. She became a mother to the poor and a consolation to the distressed ; shewing her power only by her beneficence.

After the death of the king, Batilda was regent and guardian of her children ; Clothair III. Childeric II. and Thierry III. She governed the kingdom wisely during the minority of the first ; but suspicions, jealousies, and fatal enmities arising between her ministers, she became disgusted with the court and its intrigues, and executed a project she had long formed, of retiring into

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an abbey near Paris, which she had founded. She there took the habit of a nun, and submitted to the abbess she had established, with the greatest humility and cheerfulness. Batilda was canonised by Pope Nicholas I.

Letters of St. Foix; &c.

BAUDONIVIA, *a Nun at Poitiers, at the End of the 6th and beginning of the 7th Century,*

WAS educated in the monastery of St. Croix, at Poitiers, founded by Radegonda. This princess wished the nuns belonging to it, to be equally respectable for piety and knowledge; and Baudonivia, entering into the views of the foundress, attached herself to the sciences. On the death of Radegonda in 587, she was intreated to write her life, which had been already done by a bishop. Baudonivia confined herself merely to notice what he had omitted. Her work remains in the first volume of the *Acts of the Saints of St. Benoit*.

F. C.

BAUX, (HUGUETTE DE) *a Provençal Poetess, Maid of Honour to Ermengarde, Countess of Foix, and afterwards Wife of the Lord of Aulps, in Provence.*

SHE was much celebrated by a famous troubadour or minstrel, named Pere Roger; and, being suspected of looking upon him with too favourable an eye, he was assassinated by some of her relations.

F. C.

BAYNARD,

BAYNARD, (ANNE) *Daughter of Dr. E. Baynard, a Gentleman of good Family and Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in London. Born at Preston, in Lancashire, in 1672; died at Barnes, in Surry, 1697, aged 25.*

HER father, observing her genius and natural propensity to learning, gave her a very liberal education, of which she made the best use.

“As for learning,” says the Rev. J. Prude, in his funeral sermon, “whether it be to know and understand natural causes and events, the courses of the sun, moon, and stars, the qualities of herbs and plants; to be acquainted with the demonstrable varieties of the mathematics; the study of philosophy, the writings of the ancients, and that in their own proper language, without the help of an interpreter; these, and the like, are the most noble accomplishments of the human mind, and accordingly do bring great delight and satisfaction along with them; these things she was not only conversant in, but mistress of; and that to such a degree that very few of her sex did ever arrive at.”

She took the greatest pains to perfect her knowledge in the Greek tongue, that she might with greater pleasure read St. Chrysostom in his own language. She was not satisfied with reading only; but composed many things in the Latin tongue. She would often say, “It was a sin to be contented with a little knowledge.” She was skilled in reasoning, and eager to maintain the pure principles of christianity, against innovators and deists.

She used to say, “Human learning is worth nothing, unless as a hand-maid it leads us to the knowledge
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of Christ revealed in the gospel, as our Lord and Saviour."

She was a constant frequenter of the sacrament and prayers of the church; never missing, unless hindered by illness, to which, in the latter part of her life, she was very subject. She was fond of retirement, as it led her to think of death, which she regarded without dread, and loved to meditate upon. Her charity, which her circumstances bounded as to the sum, was always given with cheerfulness and alacrity. Whatever her allowance was, she laid aside a portion of it to charitable and pious uses. She had a love for the souls of her fellow creatures; and was heartily afflicted with the errors, follies, and vices of the age: to see that "those who called themselves Christians, should, by bad principles and worse practice, dishonour their profession, and not only hazard their salvation, but that of their weak brother too, for whom Christ died. And this temper of mind made her not only importunate in her intercessions for the good of the world, but gave her courage and discretion above her years or sex, to benefit the souls of those she conversed with, by friendly reproof, good counsel, or some learned or pious discourse."

Just before her death, she wished "that all young people might be exhorted to the practice of virtue, to increase their knowledge by the practice of philosophy, and, more especially, to read the great book of nature, wherein they might see the wisdom and power of the great Creator in the order of the universe, and in the production and preservation of all things. It would fix in their minds a love to so much perfection, frame a divine idea and an awful regard of God, which
heightens

heightens devotion, lowers the spirit of pride, and gives a habit and disposition to his service; it makes us tremble at folly and profaneness, and commands reverence and prostration to his great and holy name."

"That women," says she, "are capable of such improvements, which will better their judgments and understandings, is past all doubt; would they but set to it in earnest, and spend but half of that time in study and thinking, which they do in visits, vanity, and folly, it would introduce a composure of mind, and lay a sound basis and ground work for wisdom and knowledge; by which they would be better enabled to serve God, and help their neighbours."

The character which Mr. Collier has given her, in his great Historical Dictionary, though short, is so comprehensive, as to take in some particulars not noticed by Mr. Prude. "Anne Baynard," says he, "for her prudence, piety, and learning, deserves to have her name perpetuated; being not only well skilled in the learned languages, but in all manner of learning and philosophy, without vanity or affectation. Her words were few, well chosen, and expressive. She was seldom seen to smile, being rather of a reserved and stoical disposition; which sect of philosophers she most affected; their doctrine, in most parts, seeming agreeable to her natural temper; for she never read or spake of them but with a sort of delight and pleasingness in her countenance: she had a contempt of the world, especially of the finery and gaiety of life: she had a great regard and veneration for the sacred name of God, and made it the whole business of her life to promote his honour and glory; and the great end of her study was, to encounter

counter atheists and libertines, as may be seen by some severe satires written in the Latin tongue, in which language she had a great readiness and fluency of expression, which made a gentleman of no small parts and learning say to her,

*“ Anna gens solis mea, Annam gens Belgica jactet ;
At superas Annas, Anna Baynarda, duas.”*

BEALE, (MARY) *a Portrait Painter in the Reign of Charles II. Daughter of Mr. Cradock, Minister of Walton-upon-Thames, but born in Suffolk, 1631, died 1697, aged 66.*

THIS lady was assiduous in copying the works of Sir Peter Lely and Vandyke—whose manner, as well as that of the ancient masters, she was very successful in imitating. She painted in oil, water-colours, and crayons, and was much respected and patronized, particularly by the most eminent among the clergy. The author of an essay towards an English school of painters, says, that “ she was little inferior to any of her cotemporaries, either in colouring, strength, force, or life; insomuch, that Sir Peter Lely was greatly taken with her performances, as he would often acknowledge.” She worked with a wonderful body of colours, and was exceedingly industrious. Some of her pictures remain at the earl of Ilchester’s, at Melbury, in Dorsetshire, and are most frequently distinguished by a stone-coloured frame. Her price was five guineas for a head in oils, and ten for a half-length. It in general brought in more than two hundred

hundred a-year; and a deduction of two shillings in the pound was made for charitable purposes. In Dr. S. Woodford's translation of the Psalms, are two or three versions of particular ones by her. She had two sons, who for some time practised painting. There is an engraving of Mrs. Beale, by Chambers, from a portrait done by herself, in Walpole's *Anecdotes of painting in England*.

New Biographical Dictionary. &c.

BEAUFORT, (MARGARET) *Countess of Richmond and Derby. Born at Bletshoe, in Bedfordshire, 1444, died 1509, aged 68.*

ONLY daughter and heir of the duke of Somerset, sprung from John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster. She married Edmund earl of Richmond, half-brother of Henry VI. son of Sir Owen Tudor, and Catherine of France, relict of Henry V. By him she had one son, afterwards Henry VII. On her first husband's death, she espoused Sir Henry Stafford, and afterwards Lord Stanley; but had no children by either, so that Henry was the sole heir of all her possessions.

This illustrious lady must be mentioned both as an author and patroness of letters; she was the third female writer England produced. By the course of her education, she was tolerably qualified for a studious life. She attained a perfect acquaintance with the French language, and had some skill in the Latin; but lamented that she had not rendered herself a complete mistress of it in her youth. A fine library was collected by her, not for the purpose of ornament, the gratification of vanity,

or ostentation, but for use. She wished to enrich her mind with valuable knowledge; and it contained the best Latin, French, and English books, of which she could at that time acquire the possession. Her works were of the devotional kind, and for the most part translations. One was the *Fourth Book of Dr. John Gerson's Treatise on the Imitation of Christ*, translated from the French: another was entitled, *The Mirror of Golde for the Sinful Soule*. It had been originally written in Latin, under the title of *Speculum Aureum Peccatorum*; but it was from the French that the countess of Richmond made her translation. She likewise drew up, at the desire of the king her son, and by his authority, orders with regard to the precedence of great and noble ladies at public processions, and particularly at funerals.

But it is not on her character as a writer, that the countess's real reputation is grounded. This must be sought for in her munificent institutions, for the encouragement of piety and learning. She appointed and endowed two public lectures in divinity, one at Oxford, and the other at Cambridge. At the last university, she made provision for a preacher, to deliver at least six sermons every year, in several churches belonging to the dioceses of London, Ely, and Lincoln; and she founded a free grammar-school at Winborne, in Dorsetshire. These were only the beginnings of the lady Margaret's benefactions. In 1506, she completed the foundation of Christ's College, Cambridge, and provided so plentifully for it, out of her own lands and possessions, that her revenues alone afford a maintenance for a master, twelve fellows, and forty-seven scholars. A judgment may be formed of the succeeding usefulness and reputation

tion of this institution, when it is observed, that, among the other learned ornaments of it, the names may be reckoned of Leland, Broughton, Ames, Mede, Cudworth, More, Burnet, Outram, Lightfoot, Milton, Howe, and Sanderson.

Having displayed so much bounty at Cambridge, she was disposed to extend her beneficence to distant places, and other objects: but, through the influence of John Fisher, bishop of Rochester, who had been her confessor and chaplain, she was prevailed upon to carry still farther her patronage to her favourite university. Accordingly, she became the foundress of St. John's College, but died before the design was completed. Her executors, however, were zealous and speedy in fulfilling the purposes of her will. It is needless here to enumerate the many illustrious names this college can likewise boast of.

She was buried in Westminster-abbey. Her charities and the humility which made her not disdain the lowest offices of kindness to the poor, efface the remembrance of her superstition and mistaken zeal, which regretted the times of the crusades.

New Annual Register, &c.

BEAUJEU, (ANNE, LADY OF) *Regent of France, Duchess of Bourbon, Daughter of Lewis XI. Born 1462, died 1522.*

THIS princess was so distinguished for her political knowledge, that her father feared to give her a husband with a mind firm and enterprising like her own, lest he should render her too powerful. For this reason, he married her to Peter of Bourbon, count of Beaujeu, a man of an indolent temper and narrow mind. The con-

fidents of Anne said, that “ to marry her to such a husband, was to unite the living to the dead ! ” Notwithstanding this, she lived happily with him, and he gave place, willingly, to her superior talents. Though, during his life, Lewis XI. had been jealous of the abilities of his daughter, he believed, that after his death, she alone could rule the factious nobility, and make her brother Charles VIII. reign in peace. Dying, he left her, by will, the regency of the kingdom, till her brother, then only thirteen years of age, became old enough to govern by himself.

Anne thought it a point of honour to fulfil the expectations of her father, so that the people should not murmur at his choice ; but the appointment of Lewis was disputed by the duke of Orleans, afterwards Lewis XII. presumptive heir to the crown ; but yet young and inexperienced ; and by the duke of Bourbon, prince of the blood also, who was sixty years of age, and respected for the services he had rendered the state. In these delicate circumstances, the countess behaved with admirable prudence. She engaged them, to leave the decision to the states, and afterwards gained over the duke of Bourbon, by her eloquence, and by granting him the place of constable of France.

After obtaining this advantage, Anne was not idle ; and her plans succeeded so well, that her regency was confirmed. The duke of Orleans was so much hurt by this affront, that his resentment against the countess led him, in an unguarded moment, to speak disrespectfully of her, even in the presence. Sensible of his imprudence, he fled to the duke d'Alençon, and a civil war ensued. The duke of Orleans was made captive at the battle of St. Aubin, and Anne kept him in prison for three years.

It was her ambition to unite Brittany to France; and on the death of its duke, Francis II. she effected her purpose by the marriage of Charles VIII. with Anne, his daughter and heiress. The brilliancy of this action was diminished by the restitution of Rousillon and la Cerdagne, to the king of Spain, without exacting the payment of the money lent upon it. It is said a monk, who was her confessor, gained by Ferdinand, made her believe, that the soul of her father could not come out of purgatory till this was done. It is more rational to believe this wise princess was either influenced by political motives, now unknown—or felt that it was just.

On the death of Charles VIII. in 1498, the duke of Orleans mounted the throne: and it was supposed Anne would suffer from his resentment; but Lewis nobly declared, that the king of France could not revenge the duke of Orleans. He did not even deprive her of the place she held in council.

F. C.

BEAUMER, (MADAME DE) *an ingenious French Lady.*

Deprived of fortune and personal advantages, Madame de Beaumer took infinite pains to supply that loss, by cultivating her understanding. She was nearly related to Marshal Belle Isle; but we do not find that she received any succours from him—for, after spending many years in extreme poverty in Holland, this poor lady ended a miserable life there, in 1766.

She assisted, some time, at the *Journal des Dames*; and there is a little work of hers in 12mo. which is called *Œuvres Mêlées*.

Amongst her other compositions, there is a romance called *Les Caprices de la Fortune*, which she calls an historical novel, being founded on a fact. It is written with great feeling, and in an easy unaffected stile. She wrote many allegorical pieces also.

Mrs. Thicknesse's Memoirs of French Ladies.

BEAUMONT, (MADAME LE PRINCE DE).

ONE cannot say more in praise of this lady's writings than that they are in the hands of every body. With the graces of stile, they join good sense and solid reasoning. Her sentiments on education, particularly, are worthy of the general admiration they meet with.

She was born at Paris about the year 1711. She lived many years in England, where she chiefly employed her time in writing upon different subjects. Those of her works which are held in the greatest estimation, are entitled, *Magazin des Enfans*; *Magazin des Adolescents*; *Magazin des Jeunes Dames*; and *Nouveau Magazin Anglois*.

"In educating youth," says Madame de Beaumont, "it is absolutely necessary, in forming their young minds to virtue, never to separate religion and reason; one must be dependent on the other: for the support of which, it is of the utmost importance to study the Holy Scriptures, which are alone capable of inspiring us with a just idea of the Eternal Being, the recompenser of virtue, and the avenger of crimes."

This celebrated writer has very judiciously blended entertainment with instruction, by putting it in the form of Dialogues between a governess and her pupils, whose different characters, dispositions, and tempers are well sustained. There are many very entertaining stories introduced

duced in the course of their conversation, applicable to the subject, and a variety of authors quoted, to give weight to their arguments. The beauty of every virtue is pointed out, and set in the most advantageous light, in order to inspire the young mind with true sentiments of honour, humanity, and universal charity; or rather, that compassionate interest for the feelings of others, which is called benevolence.

Her other works are, *Instructions pour les Jeunes Dames qui entrent dans le Monde*; *Lettres de Madame du Montin*; *Lettres diverses*; *Cyran*, &c.

Mrs. Thicknesse's Memoirs of French Ladies.

BEAUMONT, (MADAME ELIE DE)

WIFE of a celebrated advocate at Paris, known by an excellent novel, called *Lettres du Marquis de Roselle*, 2 vols. 1765, and a supplement to it, called *Lettres de Sophie et du Chevalier De*.

F. C.

BECTOZ, (CLAUDE DE) *Daughter of a Gentleman in Dauphiny, Abbess of Honore de Tarrascon. Died 1547.*

APPEARED, in her early years, of such a promising genius, that a monk, named Denis Fauchier, determined to teach her Latin and the Belles Lettres. In a little time she made so great a progress, that she equalled the most learned men of the age. Her Latin and French poems, letters, and treatises, for acuteness and solidity have been classed with those of the ancient philosophers. She maintained a correspondence with many learned men in France and Italy. Francis I. her sovereign, was not contented to write to her; he car-

ried her letters about with him, and shewed them to the ladies of the court, as proper models for imitation; and, being at Avignon, went to see her, as did his sister Margaret, queen of Navarre. She died the same day as this monarch, and also Henry VIII. of England. On becoming a nun, she took the name of Scholastica.

F. C.

BEHN, (APHRA) *poetically called Astrea, an English Poetess and Novel-writer. Born in the Reign of Charles I. died, after a long Illness, 1689.*

DAUGHTER of a gentleman of good family in Canterbury, of the name of Johnson, who, being lieutenant-general of Surinam, &c. embarked with his family for the West-Indies, at which time Aphra was very young. Her father died on the passage; but the rest arrived at Surinam, where the natural beauties of the situation allotted them, seem to have first awakened her poetical powers; and perhaps the luxurious indulgence and state of their way of life, helped to give her that taste for pleasure, which she afterwards retained. Here she became acquainted with the American prince Oroonoko, whose story she afterwards gave to the public, from which Southerne took his play of the *Royal Captive*. He and his wife Climene, or Imoinda, were almost constantly with her. Some censures were passed on her respecting this intimacy; but it appears to have been without foundation. His great merit would naturally awaken esteem; and his story render him interesting to a young and romantic mind; but Aphra was also the friend of his wife, whom he tenderly loved, and her conduct was watched by anxious and respectable relations.

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She appears to have returned to England an orphan, and married Mr. Behn, an eminent merchant in London, of Dutch extraction; but he died soon after. The account she gave of Surinam so highly pleased Charles II. and perhaps the foreign connexions she had formed, in consequence of her marriage, that he thought her a proper person to entrust with the management of some affairs during the Dutch war, which was the occasion of her going over to Antwerp. By the means of Vander Albert, who had been in love with her in England, and visited her, on her arrival, in 1666, she became acquainted with the design of their admiral de Witt, of sailing up the river Thames, in order to burn the shipping. She transmitted this intelligence to her court; but, though well-founded, it was treated with ridicule, which so disgusted Mrs. Behn, that she gave up all concern in political transactions during her stay at Antwerp, and entered into all the amusements and gallantries of that city. On her return to London, she was near being lost, with the rest of the crew; but, by the assistance of boats from shore, though the ship was wrecked, all the lives were saved. The rest of her life was dedicated to poetry and pleasure. Her conduct, though it has been said not to have been vicious in reality, and her writings, were very reprehensible, though the latter abounded in wit and the language of the passions. She published three volumes of miscellaneous poems, separately, in 1684, 1685, and 1688. They consisted of pieces by the earl of Rochester, Sir George Etheridge, Mr. Henry Crisp, and others, with some pieces of her own. She wrote, also, seventeen plays, some histories, and novels, extant in 12mo. 1735. She translated Fontenelle's *History of Oracles*, and his *Plurality of Worlds*, to which last she prefixed an *Essay on Translation and translated Prose*. The *Paraphrase of Cænone's Epistle to Paris*,

Paris, in the English Translation of Ovid's Epistles, is by Mrs. Behn. Dryden says of it, that "she understood not Latin, but shamed those that did." She wrote also the celebrated *Letters between a Nobleman and his Sister*, printed in 1684. She was a fine woman, a brunette, of a quick and pleasing countenance. Had not Mrs. Behn been so strongly tinctured with the prevalent dissipation and loose morality of the age, her talents would have ranked her higher in the list of female writers.

New Biographical Dictionary, &c.

BELLAMY, (GEORGE ANNE) *an Actress of the last Century, natural Daughter of Lord Tyrawley.*

POSSESSED of great personal beauty and conversational powers, Mrs. Bellamy was much courted by the greatest wits of her day; but imprudent attachments and connections deprive her of a right to that admiration which her talents otherwise would claim. She wrote an apology for her life, in five duodecimo volumes.

BELLOT, (MADAME) *a French Lady, Author of many ingenious Performances.*

THE principal arc, *Observations sur la Noblesse et le tiers Etat; les Reflexions d'un Provincial sur le Discours de M. Rousseau; Melanges de Literature Anglois.*" This consists of translations from the best English authors, in which she has shown no less discernment than taste in the subjects she has chosen, and the manner in which they are executed; *Histoire de Rasselas; Ophele; Histoire de la Maison de Tudor, &c.*

BENEVENTO, (AGELTRUDE, or ROCHTRUDE)

Empress of the West. Daughter of Adelgise II. Prince of Benevento, Wife of Guy, duke of Camerino, crowned Emperor 891.

ON the day even on which he received the purple, Guy, by a diploma, confirmed to Ageltrude the possession of her hereditary domains, and whatever his fondness had added to them. The next year he associated his son Lambert, though very young, in the empire. He died in 894; but though he left a powerful enemy in Berenger, the duke of Friuli, with whom he himself had been at war, yet this event, by the talents of Ageltrude, was of no disservice to her son. She tried to engage the pope's interest on the side of Lambert; but was not deceived by his false pretences of regard, and guided by her counsels, Lambert put himself at the head of his troops, and recovered what Arnold, the king of Germany, invited by Berenger, had conquered from him. This prince, at the instances of the pope, passed into Italy, in the spring of 896, and marched to Rome. But when he arrived near it, he found the empress, resolute to maintain the rights of her son, had foreseen his intention, and stationed herself with a large body of troops in that city. The temporising pope, whose duplicity she was well assured of, had been put in prison by a faction, which she joined; and Arnold, foreseeing the difficulties of a siege, was almost tempted to retire, but a fortunate change in his circumstances put him in possession of the city, when he released the pope from prison, who, in return, crowned him emperor; and took vengeance on his enemies: but Ageltrude had escaped, and was gone to join her son at Spoleto, whither Arnold followed, and laid siege also to that place;

but

but a paralytic stroke seizing him at the time, he thought no more of any thing but how to make his escape from Italy, where his cruelties had made him hated. Ageltrude and Lambert made the best use of his absence. In a few days, they recovered a great part of their possessions, and their authority was fully re-established at Rome.

The principality of Benevento had been successively governed by the brothers of Ageltrude; but, in 891, the Greeks made themselves masters of it. Guy XIV. a descendant of this family, and governor-general of Spoleto, relieved them from this yoke, but imposed upon them one as heavy of his own. The people murmured, and the empress took this opportunity to re-establish one of her brothers, whom they had chased from the throne more than twelve years before.

The emperor Lambert died of a fall from his horse in 998; and his death left Berenger sole king of Italy. Circumstances obliged Ageltrude to treat with this prince; but it was like a wise able princess. She engaged him to secure to her two rich monasteries, and all her other possessions. She became duchess of Spoleto by the death of Lambert; and Berenger, who could not deny his esteem to a woman who had nobly performed the duties of a mother, by his own hand, at the bottom of their treaty, promised to be her friend, in the best sense of the word—himself to respect, and make others respect her domains; which, by the liberality of her husband and son, and her hereditary rights, were very considerable.

F. C.

BENOIT, (MADAME) *born at Lyons, 1724,*

A LADY, who is indebted to nature merely for her talents; as she never applied herself much to study, or was conversant with men of letters. Her first production was *A Collection of Letters to an intimate Friend*. This work which has been called a sort of journal of Lyons, drew her into some unpleasant circumstances, and she left that city for Paris, where her husband, who was an excellent draughtsman, had procured the situation of designer at the manufacture of the Gobelins Tapestry. She afterwards wrote many works; one entitled *Mes Principes*, and a *Journal Litteraire*, are said to be her best: The others are romances; *Elizabeth*; *Lettres du Colonel Talbert*, a feeble imitation of *Clarissa Harlowe*; *Agatha and Isidore*; *Celiane ou les Amans seduits par leur Virtu*. She also wrote some comedies; *la Triomphe de la Probite*; *la Supercherie Reciproque*; and *l'Officieux*, which is not certainly known to be hers.

Letters on the French Nation.

BENTIVOGLIO, CALCAGNINI, (*The Marchioness donna Batilda*) a *Poetess of Ferrara. Died 1711.*

A LADY of much erudition and knowledge of different Languages; translated from the French into Italian many good works of different kinds. Her poetical pieces are published in the collections of the Arcadians, a literary Society, of which she was a member.

F. C.

BEN-

**BENTIVOGLIO, (THE MARCHIONESS DON-
NA CAMILLA)** *lived at Rome in 1714,*

WAS esteemed for her great qualities, her learning, and agreeable manner of writing. She had studied her language with care, and wrote equally well in verse and prose.

BERMANN, (MADEMOISELLE) *a French
Writer of the eighteenth Century,*

AUTHOR of many useful works, but more particularly, of an eloquent discourse, which won the prize at the academy of Nancy, her native place, on the question, “Whether it would be most useful, in this age, to write a work purely on literature or morality?” Mademoiselle Bermann, then only eighteen years of age, decided for the latter, with much good sense and solid reasoning, conveyed in eloquent language. She received the most distinguished marks of approbation; and her portrait is still to be seen in the great hall of that society.

F. C. &c.

BERNARD, (CATHERINE) *born of Protestant Pa-
rents, in 1662, died at Paris, 1712,*

SEEMS to have inherited her wit and elegant taste, for she was nearly related to those great models of French poetry Corneille and Fontenelle, with whom she constantly corresponded. It has been supposed, that, in her dramatic writings, she received assistance from the latter: however that may be, his friendship was an honour, and her fine abilities were conspicuous in many things in which she must have depended on herself.

She

She composed two tragedies, *Leodamie*, printed in 1690, which had but indifferent success; and *Brutus*, in 1692, which was received with great applause. By the advice of her friend, Madame Pontchartrain, from whom she received a pension, she renounced the theatre: Lewis XIV. also granted her a pension of 600 livres (about 25 pounds); but, not being well paid, she explained that matter to the king in some very elegant verses. She many times obtained the poetical prize at the French academy. Her pieces are printed in their collections for 1691, 1695, and 1697. She was also three times crowned with flowers at Toulouse, and received into the academy of the Ricovrati, at Padua. She wrote many pretty novels. Voltaire did not disdain to borrow a thought from her play of *Brutus*. Towards the end of her life she suppressed many poetical pieces written in her youth, which she thought not likely to be useful; and though offered a considerable sum, would not consent to their publication.

Mrs. Thicknesse's Memoirs of French Ladies.

BERNERS, (DAME JULYAN) *an English Writer about the Middle of the 15th Century, Daughter of Sir James Berners, of Roding, in Essex, and Sister to Sir Richard, first Lord Berners, was Prioress of the Convent of Sopewell, in Hertfordshire, near St. Albans, where she presided over twelve Nuns of the Benedictine Order.*

BEING of a noble house, she was allowed the title of Dame, and is celebrated by Hall, Holinshed, and many others, for her uncommon learning, spirit, and majestic beauty. She delighted in masculine exercises, and was

so well skilled in them, that she wrote a book under the title of *Julyan Barnes her Gentleman's Academy of Hawking, Hunting, Fishing, and Armorie*. The coats of arms to the latter treatise were in their proper colours ; that on Hunting was a poem of 606 lines ; the rest were in prose.

She is said to be the second English female writer, and the first who appeared in print. So popular was her work that it passed through two impressions in the space of five years, and this at the most early period of printing, when books were neither common nor of rapid sale ; but the subjects were adapted to the taste and amusements of the age.

The booke of St. Albans, which was the name her work obtained, from being printed there, was first published in a small folio, in 1495, or, as others say, in 1481 ; and again, in 1486 ; there was another edition of it in the latter end of queen Elizabeth's reign, 1595. It is now extremely scarce. Dr. John Moore, bishop of Norwich, had it in his collection, and there is another at Cambridge.

Specimens of the Poetry.

Proverbs.

Who that buildeth his house all of salowes,
And pricketh a blind horse over the fallowes,
And suffrith his wife to seek many halowys,
God send him the bliss of everlasting galowis.

She was living in 1460 ; but there is no account of the time of her death.

Dallaway's Inquiries ; Female Worthies ; New Annual Register, &c.

BERTANA, (LUCIA) *a Lady of Modena, or, as some say, of Bologna, whose Poems are printed in Rime de cinquante Poetesse, or Poems of 50 Ladies,*

Is known by the part she took in a famous literary dispute, occasioned by the censure which a learned, but severe critic, Castelvetro, passed upon an ode of Annibal Caro, which called forth defences from the admirers of the latter, and created much public animosity disgraceful to both parties. Esteeming equally these two great men, Lucia interfered to appease their quarrel, and wrote to the poet to engage him to withdraw some malicious writings of his friends ; but he pretended to be too deeply offended to put an end to the dispute ; and, collecting them together, printed them again, with the letters of the fair mediator, and his answers.

F. C.

BERTANI, (BARBE) *of Reggio, in Lombardy, famous for her Italian Poems ; flourished about 1588.*

BERTHA, *Daughter of Charibert, King of France, and Wife of Ethelbert, King of Kent, during the Heptarchy in England,*

ONE of the wisest and most powerful of the Saxon princes, but a pagan. It was expressly stipulated on the marriage, that Bertha, who was a Christian, should profess her own religion unmolested. Listening to the doctrines of her faith, Ethelbert became a convert to it in 597.

BERTHA, (*with the large Foot*) *Daughter of the Count of Laon, Wife of Pepin the Short, King of France, and Mother of Charlemagne. Died 783.*

THIS princess contributed much to put the crown upon the head of her husband. She held a court of ladies, in imitation of that of the peers or lords of the kingdom.

F. C.

BESTIA, (APPIA) *a rich Lady of Capua,*

WHO rendered herself illustrious during the wars of Hannibal and the Romans, by exercising, indifferently towards each, hospitality to the wounded, and liberality towards the prisoners of war.

BIBLIS, *a Christian Martyr at Lyons, during the Persecution of the Emperor Marcus Aurelius,*

AT first had the weakness to apostatise from fear; but still a Christian in her heart, she absconded herself for the crime, and could not conceal the horror and indignation she felt at the rites of paganism. She was again arrested and put to the torture. Believing her to be of intelligence with the Christians, they thought to make her own the crimes they were accused of; amongst others, that of eating children. "How can that be," cried Biblis, "when they are forbidden to shed blood!" Resolute to expiate her former fault; she continued to justify them, and suffered martyrdom.

F. C.

BIERON,

BIERON, (MADEMOISELLE) *a learned Lady of Paris, in the eighteenth Century.*

FROM early youth, she gave her time to the arts, and, indefatigable in the pursuit, studied with success, music, painting, history, and geography. Satisfied with the advances she had made in these sciences, she sought some new object of research ; and her friend, Magdalen Basseporte, advised her to apply to the study of anatomy, to which Mademoiselle Bieron consecrated the rest of her life, without any help but her natural disposition to learn, and the assiduous reading of the most learned anatomical books ; she surmounted the repugnances of her sex, and the difficulties of penetrating into hospitals and halls of surgery, at the hours when she would be secure from encountering any students there ; and applied herself, with unremitting assiduity, to this difficult science, only suspending her researches, to make at home ingenious models of the discoveries with which she had enriched it. After more than thirty years of this laborious study, and a multitude of particular experiments made at her house and at her expence, she received the applauses of all the learned in that branch of knowledge, on the chefs d'œuvres that her hand had produced. But unpatronized, even at the age of 56, and confined by a moderate patrimony, which, by great economy, she found means to share with the poor ; women, to whom the care of the sick is principally consigned, and for which their delicacy and address so peculiarly qualify them, would have found a good school at the house of this able instructor.

F. C.

BINS, (ANNE DE) *a Native of Anvers in the 16th Century. A Woman of Learning, but a violent Bigot,*

REFUSED to be married, that she might devote herself entirely to the *belles lettres*. She composed poems in the Flemish language against heretics; and her admirers have called her a second Sappho.

F. C.

BLANCHE of Castile, Daughter of Alphonso IX. *called the Magnificent, King of Castile, and Eleanor of England, Wife of Lewis VIII. and Mother of Lewis IX. King of France, called Saint Lewis. Died 1253; aged 68.*

BLANCHE was the second of eleven children, and educated by her mother, a wise and virtuous princess, with great care. When about fifteen or sixteen years of age, she was chosen to be the guarantee of a peace between two kingdoms, in becoming the wife of prince Lewis, son of Philip Augustus, king of France.

In the continual wars which happened between France and England in those times, much depended on the personal qualities of the monarch; and a weak prince was sure to lose those insecure possessions, which it had usually cost the wisest and bravest monarchs much time, blood, and treasure to secure or obtain. Perpetually reverting from one to the other, each felt little scruple in breaking treaties, when they could thereby recover, as it were, their own.

Philip Augustus had recovered, in this manner, by a breach of faith, Normandy, Touraine, Anjou, and Maine; Guyenne alone remained in the power of his rival

rival John, who, fearing to lose all, hastened to propose an accommodation, of which the chief article was the marriage of his niece, Blanche of Castile, to the son of Philip. Eleanor of Aquitaine, mother of John and grandmother of Blanche, went herself to Spain to demand the young princess ; and the nuptials were celebrated in 1200. In 1216, Lewis was invited to England by the discontented barons, who offered him the crown of that kingdom, in right of his wife. Soon afterwards the death of her brother, the only son of Alphonso IX. gave Blanche an undoubted claim to the kingdom of Castile ; but her younger sister, Berengaria, already regent of the kingdom, and queen of Leon, assumed the sovereignty, which Lewis, who thought himself secure of the crown of England, neglected to secure. When the death of John raised a competitor less obnoxious to the people, and obliged him to return, it was too late to assert her right to a throne already filled and recognised by the Spaniards.

During all the reign of Philip, Lewis and Blanche were much at court, where the beauty and fine qualities of the latter made her equally loved and admired. In 1223, they mounted the throne. She was a tender friend and counsellor to her husband, and the dispenser of his rewards and pardons. Pope Honorius III. the next year, engaged the zealous monarch to begin anew the war against the Albigenses, which his father had prosecuted with so much success ; and while engaged in it, he died after a reign of three years, in 1226, after appointing Blanche regent of the kingdom and guardian to her son. Some would not believe that he died a natural death : they remarked, that Thibaud, count of Champagne, who had followed him to the crusade against the Albigenses, had quitted him without taking

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leave

leave, after the forty days fixed by the feudal laws for the service of a vassal. They were obliged only to remain so long ; but, in general, honour and chivalry, especially when religious motives were superadded, retained them near their chief, till the object for which he had called them together was accomplished. Thibaud who loved the queen, soothed his passions by verses, and all the romantic folly of the times. He could not bear this long absence from her sight, and asked leave of absence, which, not being able to obtain, he went without it.

The king, whether he knew, or only suspected the motive for this disobedience, or that the action alone sufficed to irritate him, dropped some menaces which determined the count to rid himself of a rival, and forestall the rage of a superior. Such is nearly the foundation on which M. Paris rests the conjecture that Lewis was poisoned by Thibaud. No suspicion of knowledge or connivance was ever cast on Blanche. They had nine sons and two daughters ; five only of the former were living at the death of their father, and all in their infancy. Blanche justified the choice of her husband ; she did all that was right and proper in her new character.

From the absence, or flight of the nobility, many of them refusing, upon various pretences, to attend her son's coronation, she found herself in a species of solitude ; but, putting her trust in Heaven, she exerted her utmost powers, in despite of discouragement.

“ It was a woman, and a foreign woman,” says M. Gaillard, “ who was seen, for the first time, under the third race of our monarchs, to dare possess herself of the regency ; but this woman was the grand-daughter of Henry the second and Eleanor of Aquitain, it was

Blanche

Blanche of Castile.” This extraordinary woman, who, to unrivalled beauty, to wit, eloquence, and address, joined the undaunted spirit of a hero, and the foresight and prudence of the most enlightened politician, soon gave a form to the government, and confided the education of her son to the constable de Montmorenci, the greatest statesman and warrior in France. All those she placed about the prince, and her other children, were remarkable for their knowledge and piety.

Blanche had given much of her confidence to one, who, though wise, was, like herself, a foreigner, the cardinal Romain Bonaventura, legate in France, whom she might almost be said to associate in the government. The uncivilized nobility, believing themselves degraded by the dominion of a woman and a priest, believed a pretence was now given them to reassume their power and their tyranny, which Lewis the Fat, and Philip Augustus, had humbled. They assembled together, took up arms, and the princes of the blood, discontented at being excluded from the regency, joined with them. It was a common opinion amongst the vulgar, that they owed no duty to the king till he was crowned; and, knowing the influence of these prejudices on the minds of the people, Blanche was anxious to expedite the ceremony. She summoned all the nobility of the kingdom to Rheims: she was informed of the bad intentions of many, particularly of the duke of Brittany; but this did not delay her design; she went to Rheims well guarded. The young king was crowned in that city: and though it was now December, the rigour of the season did not deter the regent from taking her son into Brittany, to make his first essay in war against the rebels. Among
the

the rest was Thibaud, C. of Champagne. The air of disgrace thrown upon him by his quarrel with the late king, made them reckon much upon him. Their confidence was imprudent, and it was betrayed. It is said, this politic queen made the passions of the young count, whom, herself forty years of age, she disdained, serve her designs, and ordered him to enter into the league, for the purpose of revealing its secrets to her. However this may be, the diligence of Blanche disconcerted all the movements of this cabal. She came upon them in Brittany, when they were unprepared, dispersed, and engaged with them separately; adding to every other advantage, that of sowing disunion amongst them.

After composing those troubles, Blanche, by offering pardon to the Albigenses, on condition of their renouncing their opinions, persuaded their count to abjure them in a public and humiliating manner. But the quiet of the kingdom was disturbed by the intrigues of the malecontent princes. They wanted to get possession of the person of the king, but the ever-awakened vigilance of Blanche defeated all their measures; she raised three armies at one time; one made head against the English, who were come over to Normandy to take advantage of the troubles; one in Touraine, against the allies of the duke of Brittany; and the other laid siege to Belesme, a place then very strong in *Perche*. The queen was with this part. She visited the camp, and saw that all were taken care of. Once, when it was very cold, she had large fires lighted during the night, near the men at arms and the horses. Watchful and enterprising as she was, aided by the constable de Montmorenci, easy to pardon, on submission, and always fortunate,

Blanche

Blanche found perpetual occasion for new efforts ; and the last years of her regency were employed in securing that peace she had so laboured to obtain, in rendering more easy the administration of justice, in redoubling her charities to the poor, and founding many rich monasteries.

In 1232, she made a truce with England, and the next year delivered into the hands of her son the sovereign authority. That son to whom she had often said, “ I would rather a thousand times consent to lose you, all royal as you are, and more dear to me than all the world contains, than know you to commit a fault which may deprive you of the protection of Heaven.” This prince paid all the deference to her which such a mother merited. From regent she became prime minister. Blanche loved power, but she loved also the glory of her son, and the concord which existed between them was the source of the prosperity of her reign.

In 1248, Lewis, in pursuance of a vow he had made in sickness, undertook an expedition to the Holy Land, leaving his mother regent during his absence. Blanche warmly but ineffectually remonstrated against this action ; for, though pious, she was elevated above the political errors of her age, and saw the folly of this waste of blood and treasure. But, when once it was determined, she sought only to render it as little prejudicial to him and to France as possible. She sent him frequent succours of men and money. She watched over his interest, and that of her son Alphonso, who had married the heiress of Provence, and was with him. The news from Egypt was at all times distressing. Whether Lewis was beaten or successful, France lost her youth, and new claims were made upon the treasury. Divided between her maternal fondness and her
interest

interest in the public welfare, Blanche sought to perform her duties towards each. She strove to maintain peace and abundance at home, and yet to supply her son with liberality. She suffered by these cares; and when the news arrived that the army was cut to pieces, her son, the count d'Artois, massacred by the infidels, and St. Lewis himself, with the greater part of the princes and nobility taken prisoners, her noble heart failed her, and her health received a considerable shock. From this time she was always weak and languid, but yet redoubled her cares, at least to preserve that state she would have rendered prosperous from ruin. She sent immense sums into Egypt for the ransom of the young monarch, expecting his return, and that of her other children, with great anxiety. Two of his brothers arrived in 1251; but her joy was diminished by a letter from the king, who had determined not to leave Palestine till he had put affairs into a better posture, and demanded new succours. She deplored in silence the infatuation of her son, but she followed his orders.

Disorders, of which the crusades were the origin, arose in the provinces, and a civil war commenced, in which, as usual, the talents of Blanche rendered her successful. Her humanity also was called into action by the unjust pretensions of some ecclesiastics, particularly those of Notre Dame, who pretended to have powers of life and death over the peasants of their jurisdiction. She went in person to the prisons belonging to them, and finding the soldiers hesitated to burst open the doors, struck at them first herself, which emboldened the rest, who soon burst them, and set free the miserable captives. After this, she seized the temporalities of the canons, till they returned to their duty: but wishing to temper the most exact justice with
mercy,

mercy, she declared the villages, whose inhabitants had been so ill treated, affranchised from those odious rights of the chapter, on condition that they paid a reasonable sum for their liberty.

Her health becoming every day more enfeebled, the physicians counselled her to leave Paris for the country. She went to Melun, and passed there the autumn of the year 1253. A slow and continued fever was upon her; and, feeling that she had but little time to live, she returned to Paris, received the sacraments of the church, and, according to the custom of the age, entered into a conventual order, just before her death, which, undoubtedly, was hastened by the regret she felt, that her toils, for the welfare of France and the prosperity of her dear and excellent son, were in vain.

Her extreme fondness for this son was a source of a sort of enmity between her and his wife. Both loved him too well to love each other. One wanted to govern him without a competitor, and the other to be governed only by him. Lewis managed this point between them in a manner that shewed great simplicity of manners and refined tenderness. Blanche was jealous of his confidence in Margaret; and whenever she found him in her apartments, a marked coldness, an involuntary sharpness, shewed the indignant feeling of her soul. They therefore taught a little dog to announce her arrival; and the moment the animal gave warning, the king went out at a back door. Once, when Margaret was supposed to be dying, the queen dowager found Lewis attempting to succour her; she feared for him the melancholy sight of his wife's death, which seemed fast approaching, and, taking him by the hand, to lead him

him away, said, in an awful tone, “you are always here.”—“Ah,” cried Margaret, sorrowfully, who saw only cruelty to her in this maternal anxiety, “will you never let me see my dear lord, either in life or death?” and, on the king’s leaving the room, fainted away: he was soon recalled, and Margaret restored to life. It was thus that this amiable monarch was beloved. But though, on the first view, we may blame his mother, let it be considered that her political abilities were of the first order; and that had the well-intentioned Margaret possessed an equal mind, she might more readily have yielded up her influence, to a vigilance, a sagacity, an interest like his own. But her life seems to have been wound up in the glory and happiness of her son; and, with religious fidelity, she not only taught him to fulfil his duties to his people, but seconded herself every view to that end, with indefatigable zeal and activity.

Rivalite de la France et de l’Angleterre, &c.

BLANCHEFLEUR, *a Provençal Poetess, cotemporary of Laura de Sade.*

BLAND, (ELIZABETH) *learned in the Hebrew Languages, and particularly skilful in writing it,*

DAUGHTER and heiress of Mr. Fisher, of Long-acre, born about the time of the Restoration. She was married, April 1681, to Mr. Nathaniel Bland (then a linen-draper in London, afterwards lord of the manor of Beeston, in the parish of Leeds, Yorkshire, his paternal inheritance, where they resided many years); their children

dren all died in infancy, excepting two. She was instructed in the Hebrew language by the lord Van Helmont, which she understood to such a degree of perfection, that she taught it to her son and daughter.

Among the curiosities of the Royal Society, there is preserved a philactery in Hebrew, of her writing, of which Dr. Grew gives the following account ; “ It is only a single scroll of parchment, of an inch broad, and fifteen inches long ; with four sentences of the law, viz. Exod. viii. from 7 to 11, and from 13 to 19, most curiously written upon it in Hebrew. Serarius, from the Rabbins, saith, that they were written severally upon so many scrolls ; and that the Jews do to this day wear them over their foreheads in that manner ; so that they are of several sorts or modes, whereof this is one. This was wrote at the request of Mr. Thoresby, and was given by her to that repository.”

She was living in 1712 ; but when she died is uncertain, nor is it now known whether she wrote any thing for the public.

Female Worthies.

BLANDINA, a Martyr at Lyons, when the Persecution against the Christians, under Marcus Antoninus (or Aurelius) was carried on in its greatest Severity.

THIS woman, who appears to have been a servant, was called, among the rest, to the trial ; though of so weak and delicate a constitution that they feared she would not be able to sustain the tortures : but they were all deceived. She was tortured in different ways, from morning till night, and whilst her body was torn and mangled, seemed to derive support by refuting the calumnies against the Christians, saying, “ I am a Christian,

Christian, and no evil is committed among us." After this first trial, she and the others were thrust into the darkest and most noisome parts of the prison, their feet distended in a wooden trunk, and they suffered all the indignities which cruelty and malice could inflict. Many of them died; but the rest, though afflicted to such a degree that the kindest treatment would scarcely have recovered them, destitute as they were of all help, yet remained alive, confirmed in their faith, strengthening and comforting one another. On one of the shows of the amphitheatre, they were led out to be exposed, as food to the wild beasts, according to the common custom of these ages. Blandina, suspended to a stake, in the form of a cross, employed her time in vehement supplication; and by her meek, but undaunted behaviour inspired her fellow sufferers with fortitude: but none of the beasts at that time touching her, she was reserved for a future trial, and again thrown into prison.

On the last day of the spectacles, Blandina was again introduced, with Pontius, a youth of fifteen; they had been daily brought in to see the punishment of the rest. They were ordered to swear by their idols; and the mob, perceiving that they treated their menaces with contempt, was incensed, and aggravated their tortures by all possible methods; but menaces and punishments were equally ineffectual. Pontius, being animated by his fellow sufferer, who was observed by the heathens to strengthen and confirm him, after a magnanimous exercise of patience, yielded up the ghost. And now Blandina, last of all, as a generous mother, having exhorted her children, and sent them before her victorious to the king, reviewing the whole series of their sufferings, hastened to undergo the same herself, rejoicing and triumphing in her exit.

After

After she had endured stripes, the tearing of the beasts, and the iron chair (which was heated to scorch their limbs), she was inclosed in a net, and thrown to a bull. Even her enemies confessed, that no woman among them had ever suffered so much. These sufferers of Lyons disclaimed the name of martyrs, as too glorious for them, but shewed a constancy, mildness, and charity, almost apostolical. They reproached not those who fell away from the faith; but prayed to God for them; and many, who had shrunk back from the punishment inflicted on those who bore the name of Christ, like Peter, repented of their falsehood, and came back, voluntarily declaring they were Christians.

Milner's Christian Church.

BLEMUR, (MARY JAQUELINE DE) *a Benedictine Nun of noble Family; born 1618; died at Chatillon, 1696.*

A PIOUS woman, who composed a work called the *Benedictine Nun*, in seven quarto volumes; also the *Lives of the Saints*, in two vols. besides other similar works.

El Theatro Critico.

BLESILLA, *Daughter of Paula, a celebrated Roman Lady, and Sister of Eustochium. Died at Rome in 389, aged 20.*

A WOMAN of great sensibility, piety, and learning. She was very beautiful, and, in the early part of her life, had spent much time and care in adorning her person; but becoming more deeply impressed with religious ideas,

ideas, she gave herself up to study and prayer. On the death of her husband, though so young, she refused to enter into any other engagement, and is much extolled by St. Jerom, for her memory and eloquence. She knew perfectly the Greek and Latin languages, and had conquered so well the difficulties of the Hebrew as to speak it with facility.

F. C.

BOADICEA, *a British Queen in the Time of Nero.*

PRASUTAGUS, king of the Iceni (the inhabitants of Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridge, and Huntingdonshire) in order to secure the friendship and protection of Nero to his wife and family, in his will, left the emperor and his daughters co-heirs. But no sooner was he in the grave, than the emperor's officers seized upon his effects in their master's name. Boadicea, widow of the deceased king, strongly remonstrated against these unjust proceedings; but her complaints were so far from being heard, or her grievances redressed, that she found herself exposed to farther wrongs and injuries. For, being a woman of high spirit, she resented her ill usage in such terms, as provoked the officers to treat her in the most barbarous manner; they caused her to be publicly scourged; and her daughters' innocence fell a sacrifice to their barbarity.

This story soon spread through the island, and the public indignation so generally raised, that all, excepting London, agreed to revolt. The Roman historians themselves acknowledge, that the universal violence and injustice of the emperor's officers, gave the Britons sufficient reason to lay aside their private animosities, aid the queen to revenge her wrongs, and recover their own liberty.

Boadicea.

Boadicea, inspired with implacable hatred against the Romans, put herself at their head, and earnestly exhorted them to take advantage of the absence of the Roman general, then in the Isle of Man, by putting these foreign oppressors all to the sword. They readily embraced the proposal, and, on a sudden, flew with the utmost fury upon the Romans wherever they found them dispersed in their colonies, which were more curiously embellished with fine buildings, than strengthened with fortifications, massacring all, without regard to age or sex; and so violent was the rage of the exasperated people, that the most horrible cruelties were practised on this occasion. Not a single Roman that came within their reach escaped their fury, and no less than 70,000 perished.

Paulinus, in the mean time suddenly returning, marched against the revolted Britons, who had an army of 100,000, or, according to Dion Cassius, 230,000 strong, under the conduct of Boadicea, and Venutius her general. The fine person of Boadicea, large, fair, and dignified, with her undaunted courage, persuaded the people that she must have all the qualities of a good general; and, eager for the engagement with Paulinus, whose army consisted of no more than 10,000 men, she expected to satiate her revenge, by the utter destruction of so inconsiderable an enemy.

Mean while, Paulinus was in great trouble; the ninth legion had been just defeated by the enemy. Pænius Posthumus, at the head of a large detachment of the second, refused to join him; so that he had the choice but of two expedients, either to march with his little army into the open field against his numerous enemies, or shut himself up in some town and wait for them. At first he chose the latter, and staid in London, but soon altered his resolution. And, instead

of retiring from the Britons, who were now on the march towards him, he resolved to meet them. The field of battle he pitched upon was a narrow tract of ground, facing a large plain, where they encamped, and his rear was secured by a forest. The Britons traversed the plain in large bodies, exulting in their numbers, and secure of victory. They had brought their wives and children in waggons to be spectators of their actions in the battle, and placed them round their entrenchments.

Boadicea, in the mean time, was not idle, but mounting her chariot, with her two daughters, rode up and down through the several squadrons of her army, whom she addressed to the following effect :

“ That it was not the first time the Britons had been victorious, under the conduct of their queen. That, for her part, she came not there as one descended of royal blood, to fight for empire or riches, but as one of the common people, to avenge the loss of their liberty, the wrongs of herself and children. That the wickedness of the Romans was come to its height ; and that the gods had already begun to punish them ; so that, instead of being able to withstand the attack of a victorious army, the very shouts of so many thousands would put them to flight. That if the Britons would but consider the number of their forces, or the motives of the war, they would resolve to *vanquish* or *die*. That it was much better to fall honourably in defence of liberty, than be again exposed to the outrages of the Romans. Such at least was her resolution ; as for the *men*, they might, if they pleased, live and be slaves.” At the end of her speech she is said to have let loose a hare, which she had concealed, as an omen of victory.

While Boadicea thus laboured to animate her Britons

tons to behave with their wonted bravery, Paulinus was no less assiduous in preparing his troops for the encounter. The Britons expected his soldiers to be daunted at their number; but, when they saw them advance with short steps, sword in hand, without discovering any fear, their hearts began to fail them, and they fell into disorder, which continually increased, it not being in the power of their commanders to lead them back to the charge. The Romans observing their consternation, pushed the advantage with great fury, and threw their army into a confusion past the possibility of recovery. They gave no quarter, and 80,000 of the Britons perished.

Boadicea, indeed, escaped falling into the hands of the conquerors; but, unable to survive the remembrance of this terrible defeat, either fell a victim to despair or poison.

BOCAGE, (MARY-ANNE LE PAGE, DAME DU)
a French Poetess of the 16th Century,

MARRIED, when very young, a gentleman of Normandy, who held a place of considerable profit under government. He made himself known by some very elegant translations from the English; and died before her. Madame du Bocage travelled a great deal, and published her tours through England, Holland, Italy, &c. When she was not only received with every mark of distinction and respect by many of the first personages of Europe, namely, the Pope, Cardinals, the king of England, &c. but admitted a member in most of the academies. In short, her poetical talents are looked upon as equal to the most celebrated. Her *Paradis Ter-*

restre, printed in 1744, is esteemed an incomparable imitation of Milton. She made some alterations, in order to conform it more to the taste of her own nation; and, as she modestly observes, retrenched some parts which seemed too highly coloured to attempt copying. It must be confessed, Madame du Bocage has done as much justice to her subject as the French language will permit of.

The Latin, English, and Italian languages, she was as well skilled in as her own. Milton and Tasso, her two favourite poets, she has imitated with equal success, and shewn she perfectly well understood the beauties of each author.

Voltaire wrote very elegantly in her praise. She was a handsome, graceful woman, lively and entertaining. Her other principal works are a translation of *Pope's Temple of Fame*, 1749; another of the *Funeral Oration on Prince Eugene*; *Les Amazones*, a tragedy; *la Colombiade*, 1756, a poem, and *Le Prix alternatif entre les Belles Lettres & les Sciences*. This piece was crowned at Rouen, 1746.

Memoirs of French Ladies. Letters on the French Nation.

BOIS DE LA PIERRE, (LOUISA MARIA DE)

Widow of a Gentleman slain at the battle of Malplaquet. Died 1730.

FOLLOWED the example of her parents in abjuring the reformed religion, in which she had been educated. On the death of her husband, she sought consolation in study. She wrote in prose and verse, with a facility, elegance, and precision, equalled only by the best writers.

ters. She was well known to the learned, and wrote many excellent treatises on history.

F. C.

BOLEYN, (ANNE) *Queen of England. Born 1507 —beheaded 1536. Daughter of Sir Thomas Boleyn, who had been employed by Henry VIII. in several Embassies, and was allied to all the chief Nobility in the Kingdom.*

SHE had been carried over to France by the king's sister, when espoused to Lewis XII. of France; and the graces of her mind, no less than the beauties of her person, had distinguished her even in that polished court. The time at which she returned to England is not certainly known; but it appears to have been after the king had entertained doubts concerning the lawfulness of his marriage. She became maid of honour to Catherine, and immediately caught the roving eye of Henry: but, as her virtue and modesty left him no other hope, he resolved to raise her to the throne, which her accomplishments, both natural and acquired, seemed equally fitted to adorn.

But many bars were yet in his way, particularly the divorce from Catherine, and a revocation of the bull which had been granted for his marriage with her, before he could marry Anne. The pope, however, empowered Campeggio and Wolsey, his two legates in England, to try the validity of the former union; but just when Henry, who was only more violently bent on his object for the difficulties in his way, was anxiously expecting a sentence in his favour, Campeggio prorogued the court, and the pope, at the intercession of the emperor, nephew to Catherine, revoked the cause to

Rome. This finesse occasioned the fall of Wolsey, to whom both the king and Anne Boleyn imputed the failure of their expectations.

Amidst the anxieties which agitated Henry, he was often tempted to break off all connexion with Rome; and Ann Boleyn used every insinuation, in order to make him proceed to extremities with the pope, both as the readiest and surest means of her exaltation to the royal dignity, and of spreading the new doctrines, in which she had been initiated under the duchess of Alençon, a warm friend to the reformation. But Henry had been educated in a superstitious veneration for the holy see, abhorred all alliance with the Lutherans, and dreaded the reproach of heresy.

While he was thus fluctuating between contrary opinions, Dr. Thomas Cranmer, a man distinguished for his learning and candour, in a casual discourse with two of his courtiers, observed, that the best way either to quiet the king's conscience or obtain the pope's consent, would be to consult all the universities in Europe, with regard to that controverted point. Henry was delighted with this proposal. Cranmer was immediately sent for and taken into favour; the universities were consulted, according to his advice; and all of them declared the king's marriage invalid.

Wolsey's death, who had been some time disgraced, freed the king from a person whom he considered as an obstacle in the way of his inclinations, and supported by the opinion of the learned in the step he intended to take, Henry resolved to administer ecclesiastical affairs without having farther recourse to Rome, and abide all consequences; he privately celebrated his marriage with Anne, 1532, whom he had previously created Marchioness of Pembroke.

Cranmer,

Cranmer, now become archbishop of Canterbury, annulled soon after the king's marriage with Catherine, (a step which ought to have preceded his second nuptials) and ratified that of Anne, who was publicly crowned queen, on Easter eve, 1533, with all the pomp and dignity suited to such a ceremony. To complete the satisfaction of Henry, on the conclusion of this troublesome business, the queen was safely delivered of a daughter, who received the name of Elizabeth, and afterwards swayed the British sceptre.

The reformation seemed fast gaining ground in the kingdom, though the king was still its declared enemy ; when its promoters, Cranmer, Latimer, and others, met with a severe mortification, which seemed to blast all their hopes, in the untimely fate of their patroness Anne Boleyn.

This lady now began to experience the decay of the king's affections, and the capriciousness of his temper. That heart which she had withdrawn from another, revolted against herself. Henry's passion, which subsisted in full force, during the six years that the prosecution for the divorce lasted, and seemed only to increase under difficulties, had scarcely attained possession of its object, than he sunk into languor, succeeded by disgust. His love was suddenly transferred to a new mistress ; but, as he could not marry Jane Seymour without getting rid of his once beloved Anne, she became the bar to his felicity.

That obstacle, however, was soon removed. The heart is not more ingenious in suggesting apologies for its deviations, than courtiers for gratifying the inclinations of their prince. The queen's enemies, immediately sensible of the alienation of the king's affections, accomplished her ruin by flattering his new passion. They
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represented that freedom of manner which Anne had acquired in France as improper levity : they indirectly accused her of a criminal dissoluteness of life, and extolled the virtues of Jane Seymour. Henry believed all, because he wished to be convinced. The queen was committed to the Tower ; impeached ; brought to trial ; condemned without evidence, and executed without remorse. History affords no reason to call her innocence in question ; and the king, by marrying her known rival the day after her execution, made the motives of his conduct sufficiently evident, and left the world in little doubt of the iniquity of her sentence.

If farther arguments should be thought necessary, in support of the innocence of the unfortunate Anne Boleyn, her serenity, and even cheerfulness, while under confinement and sentence of death, ought to have its weight, as it is perhaps unexampled, and could not well be the associate of guilt. “ Never prince,” says she, in a letter to Henry, “ had wife more loyal in all duty, and in all true affection, than you have ever found in Anne Boleyn ; with which name and place I could willingly have contented myself, if God and your grace had been so pleased ; neither did I at any time, so forget myself in my exaltation, or received queenship, but that I always looked for such an alteration as I now find ; for the ground of my preferment being no surer foundation than your grace’s fancy, the least alteration, I knew, was fit and sufficient to draw that fancy to some other object.”

In another letter, she says ; “ you have raised me from a private gentlewoman to a marchioness ; from a marchioness to a queen ; and since you can exalt me no higher in this world, you are resolved to send me to heaven, that I may become a saint !” This gaiety
continued

continued to the last. The morning of her execution, conversing with the lieutenant of the Tower on what she was going to suffer, he endeavoured to comfort her by the shortness of its duration. "The executioner, indeed," replied she, "I am told, is very expert; and I have but a slender neck," grasping it with her hand, and smiling. The queen's brothers, and three gentlemen of the bed-chamber, also fell victims to the king's suspicions, or rather were sacrificed to hallow his nuptials with Jane Seymour.

Female Worthies, Modern Europe, &c.

BONA, *an Italian Peasant in the Valteline. Died*
1466.

WHILE this young woman was tending her sheep, she was met by Peter Brunoro, a Parmesan officer of note, who remarking her vivacity and noble mien, took her with him as his mistress. He delighted to be accompanied by her to the chase, and all manly diversions. She went with him to serve the great Sforza, against Alphonso, king of Naples, his first master. He afterwards entered again into the service of the latter; but, being one of those roving spirits by which the age of chivalry is characterised, he sought again to return to Sforza; was discovered in the attempt, and sent to prison. Resolute to deliver him, Bona engaged the princes of Italy, the king of France, the duke of Burgundy, and the Venetians, to give her letters to Alphonso, soliciting his freedom. At such instances he was obliged to grant him his liberty, which he not only obtained through the means of Bona, but
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the command of the Venetian troops, with 20,000 ducats.

Considering the obligations she had conferred upon him, Brunoro married her; and she ever afterwards combated with him. She learned the art of war to perfection, which appeared on many occasions, where she displayed equal valour and prudence. In fine, the Venetians confided jointly to this heroic pair the defence of Negropont against the Turks, who were kept quiet by the fame of their valour. On the death of Brunoro, Bona, returning to Venice, died on the way, leaving two children.

F. C.

BONMERE, (MADEMOISELLE.)

THIS lady's father and mother, having been guilty of some state crime, were imprisoned for life, but indulged with possessing one another's company. Mademoiselle Bonmere, born under this durance, lived till the 35th year of her age, and could scarce have been said to have seen day-light. The death of her very learned and ingenious parents, which happened within a few days of each other, gave her liberty, but deprived her of the only two friends, or even acquaintances, she had in the world, excepting those hard beings who are entrusted with the care of prisoners. Thus turned into the world, without money, friends or practical knowledge, though excellently instructed in the theory, she determined to avail herself of rather a masculine form, and hard features, and appeared in man's apparel, in which she entered as a private soldier in a regiment of foot, and gave so many instances of personal bravery, as well as integrity, that

that she obtained the employment of adjutant and paymaster of the corps.

She wrote memoirs of her own times, which we believe were never printed ; but Mrs. Thicknesse, who had seen them in MSS. speaks of them in the highest stile of encomium.

BONTEMS, (MADAME) *a Parisian ; born 1718, died 1768 ;*

HAS translated, from the English into French, many works, particularly the *Seasons* of Thomson, in a very superior manner.

F. C.

BORE, (CATHERINE VON) *a Nun of Nimptochen, in Germany, afterwards Wife of Luther ; married in 1525, died 1552, aged 53 ;*

WAS the daughter of a gentleman of fortune ; and, at the commencement of the reformation, escaped from her convent, in 1523, with eight other nuns, convinced, by the writings of Luther, of the impropriety of monastic vows, and encouraged by Leonard Cope, senator of Torgaw. This proceeding was highly praised by Luther, who undertook their justification. She was then but twenty-six ; and, the charms of youth, added to the extraordinary step she had taken, which made her many enemies, caused her to be censured, though without foundation, as having left her convent for a libertine life. Luther was hurt at this report, and thought of marrying her to Glacius, minister of Ortamunden ; but she did not like Glacius, and Luther, though much older, married her himself.

Luther

Luther delighted in the heroism of his wife. He would not part with her, he afterwards observed, for all the riches of the Venetians. Catherine was tenderly attached to her husband; she was modest, gentle, plain in her attire, and economical in the house. She had all the hospitality of the German noblesse, without their pride. Luther died 1546. On his death, Catherine continued one year at Wittenberg, but left that town when it surrendered to the emperor Charles V. a great enemy to her husband. Before her departure, she received a present of fifty crowns from the king of Denmark; she received likewise presents from the elector of Saxony and the counts of Mansfeldt. With these additions to what Luther had left her, she had enough to maintain herself and her family, three sons, (some of whose descendants were living in a reputable manner, at the end of the seventeenth century) handsomely. She returned to Wittenberg, when the town was restored to the elector; where she lived, in a very pious manner, till the plague obliged her to leave it again, in 1552. She had a fall from a carriage, in her way to Torgau, in consequence of which she died at Torgau about a quarter of a year after. She was buried there in the great church, with many honours, where her tomb and epitaph are still to be seen.

New Biographical Dictionary, &c.

BOULOGNE, (GENEVIEVE and MADELEINE)

Sisters and famous Painters.

BOURGES,

BOURGES, (CLEMENTIA DE) *a celebrated Poetess of Lyons, in the sixteenth Century,*

WAS not inferior to Louisa Labé in poetical and musical talents, but much her superior in birth and virtue. They were cotemporaries, and esteemed the Sapphos of the age; living in the most perfect friendship, till Louisa's conduct made it necessary for Clementia to break the connexion; which she did, though with great pain to herself.

In the different fêtes given to the French kings at Lyons, she played before them. She has been called the flower and the pearl of Lyonese Damsels; a pearl truly oriental. She was promised in marriage to a young lieutenant of the province, who was killed fighting against the protestants in Dauphiny, 1561. Clementia died of grief at the end of the next year, in the flower of her age. She was celebrated by the best writers of the time. Her poetry is esteemed elegant and correct, her measure smooth and harmonious.

Memoirs of French Ladies, by Mrs. Thicknesse.

BOURIGNON, (ANTOINETTE) *a famous Enthusiast. Born 1616, died 1680, at Lisle, in Flanders.*

AT her birth, she was so ugly that a consultation was held in the family for some days, about stifling her for a monster. She grew better, and they spared her. At four years of age she not only took notice of the immoral lives of the people of Lisle, but was so disturbed thereby, as to desire a removal into some more christian country. She would not join in the sports of other children,

children, and soon began to inflict on herself voluntary penances.

Her father promised her in marriage to a Frenchman. Easter-day, 1630, was appointed for the nuptials; to avoid which, she fled, in the habit of a hermit, but was stopped at Blagon, a village of Hainault, on suspicion of her sex. The minister of that place rescued her from an officer of horse. He observed something extraordinary in her, and mentioned her to the archbishop of Cambray, who persuaded her to give up the idea of living as a hermit, and sent her home. But fresh proposals of matrimony being made to her, she ran away a second time; and going to the archbishop, obtained a licence to set up a small society in the country, with some other maidens of her taste and temper. The Jesuits, however, opposing it, the licence was soon retracted, and Antoinette obliged to withdraw into the country of Liege, whence she returned to Lisle, and passed many years away in a private and recluse way of life, in devotion and great simplicity; so that when her patrimonial estate fell to her, she resolved at first to renounce it; but changing her mind, as she was satisfied with a few conveniences, spent little, and bestowed no charities, her wealth daily increased.

Her resolution to remain single, without embracing a conventual life, exposed her to the addresses of many lovers, either of herself or her fortune. Upon this, she had recourse to the provost, who sent two men to guard her house. Soon after the nephew of the minister of St. Andrew's, near Lisle, also fell in love with her; and as her house was in the neighbourhood, made frequent attempts to force an entrance. She threatened to quit
her

her residence, if she was not delivered from this troublesome suitor. The uncle drove him from his house. Upon which he became desperate, discharged a musket through her chamber window, and gave out that she was his espoused wife. The preacher at length relieved her from the disgrace this charge brought upon her, by declaring from the pulpit, that the report was a falsehood.

In 1658, she was made governess of an hospital at Lisle, having taken the order and habit of St. Austin. But here again she fell into fresh trouble. A strange idea got abroad, that the hospital was infected with sorcery, insomuch that all the young girls in it had an engagement with the devil. Upon which the governess was taken up, and examined by the magistrates of Lisle; nothing could be proved against her. But, to prevent farther prosecutions, she retired to Ghent, in 1662. Here she supposed her spiritual blessings were increased. Many learned and pious persons took her part, particularly De Cort, the superior of the Molines, a theologist, who had been secretary to Cornelius Jansen. He engaged her to write her religious sentiments, and she composed 3 vols. intituled *La Lumiere du Monde*, which has been thought her best work; though she wrote many others on the same subject. These productions occasioned much dispute between the Jesuits and those who protected her. They ran at last so high, that she was equally persecuted by both parties. De Cort dying in 1660, left her his heir; but this inheritance brought her into new troubles. A multitude of law-suits were commenced to prevent her enjoying it; nor were her doctrines and religious principles spared on the occasion. She left Holland in 1671, to go into Noor Strandt.

In her way thither she stopped at several places, where she dismissed some disciples, who, she found, followed her for interest; and wrote so much, that she thought it convenient to set up a press, where she printed her books in French, Dutch, and German. One piece, among others, was intituled, *the Testimony of Truth*, in which she handles the ecclesiastics very severely. Two Lutheran ministers wrote some books, wherein they declared, that people had been beheaded and burnt for opinions not much less supportable than hers. The Labbadists also wrote against her, and her press was prohibited. Upon this she retired to Hensburgh in 1673, in order to get out of the storm, but was discovered and treated so ill by the people, who supposed her a sorceress, that she was glad to get away. They persecuted her from city to city; and, in 1676, she went to Hamburgh, as a place of more security; but no sooner was her arrival known than they endeavoured to seize her. She concealed herself for some days, and then went to Oestfrise, where she obtained protection from the baron Latzbourg, and was made governess of an hospital.

Our devotee, when she accepted this charge, declared that she consented to contribute her industry both to the building and distribution of the goods, and the inspection of the poor; but without engaging any part of her estate; for which she alledged two reasons; one, that her goods had been already dedicated to God for the use of those, who sincerely sought to be true christians; the other, that men and all human things are very inconstant. It was on this account that she found persecutors also in Oestfrise, which obliged her to go to Holland in 1683, where she died at Francker the same year.

She

She would never suffer her picture to be taken. Her constitution was so good, that, notwithstanding all her fatigues, she seemed to be but forty years of age when she was above 60, and never used spectacles, though continually reading or writing. Her principles were nearly the same with those of the quietists; excluding all external worship, and requiring a cessation of reason and understanding, that God might spread his divine light over the mind.

She had more disciples in Scotland than in any other country; not only laymen, but some of their teachers embraced her doctrines; and her principal book was published there, *in English*, entitled, the *Light of the World*, in 1696: her *Traites de la solide Vertue, et Avis Salulaire*, are said, by Mrs. Thicknesse, to be written in such a strain of christian piety, that they must obtain the approbation of all good men. She composed 18 vols. in octavo.

F. C.; Female Worthies, &c.

BOUSSONET, (STELLA)

AN excellent designer and engraver, whose works rank with those of the first artists.

BOVEY, (CATHERINE) *Daughter of John Riches,
of London, Merchant,*

MARRIED, at the age of fifteen, William Bovey, Esq. of Flaxley, in Gloucestershire. This lady is not noted either as a linguist or a writer, yet such were her qualities and accomplishments, that she may justly claim a place in the first rank of Female Worthies.

The author of the *New Atlantis*, gives the following description of her. “ She is one of those lofty, black, and lasting beauties, that strike with reverence, and yet delight; her mind and conduct, her judgment, her sense, her stedfastness, her wit and conversation, are admirable; so much above what is lovely in the sex, that shut but your eyes, and allow but for the music of her voice, your mind would be charmed, as thinking yourself conversing with the most knowing, the most refined of yours. She is so real an economist, that, in taking all the duties of life, she does not disdain to stoop to the most inferior; in short, she knows all that a man can know, without despising what, as a woman, she ought not to be ignorant of. Wisely declining all public assemblies, she is contented to possess her soul in tranquillity and freedom at home, among the happy few whom she has honoured with the name of friends.”

At the age of twenty-two she was left a widow, without children, and very opulent; and being likewise an heiress to her father, these circumstances added to her illustrious and amiable qualities, gained her crowds of admirers; but she chose to remain in a state of widowhood, that she might have no interruption in the disposal of her great riches, which she employed to the best purposes.

And,

And, though she had not been instructed in the dead languages, yet, by conversing with some of the most learned men of the age, and by intense application to study, she attained a great share of learning, knowledge, and judgment. Of this we are assured by Sir Richard Steele, in an epistle dedicatory to Mrs. Bovey, prefixed to the second volume of the Ladies Library.

It were easy to enlarge on a character whose worth was so generally, and well attested; but her merit will appear in a more distinguished light, from her monumental inscriptions.

On a beautiful honorary marble monument, erected in Westminster-abbey, is the following :

“ To the memory of Mrs. Catherine Bovey, whose person and understanding would have become the highest rank in female life, and whose vivacity would have recommended her to the best conversation; but by judgment as well as inclination, she chose such a retirement, as gave her great opportunities for reading and reflection, which she made use of to the wisest purposes of improvement in knowledge and religion: on other subjects, she ventured far out of the common way of thinking; but, in religious matters, she made the Holy Scriptures, in which she was well skilled, the rule and guide of her faith and actions, as esteeming it more safe to rely on the plain word of God, than to run into any freedoms of thought upon revealed truths. The great share of time allowed to her closet was not perceived in her economy; for, she had always a well-ordered, and well-instructed family, from the happy influence, as well of her temper and conduct, as of her uniform exemplary Christian life. It pleased God to bless her with a considerable estate, which with a liberal hand, guided by wisdom

dom and piety, she employed to his glory, and the good of her neighbours. Her domestic expences were managed with a decency and dignity suitable to her fortune, but with a frugality that made her income abound to all proper objects of charity, to the relief of the necessitous, the encouragement of the industrious, and the instruction of the ignorant. She distributed, not only with cheerfulness, but with joy, which, upon some occasions of raising and refreshing the spirit of the afflicted, she could not refrain from breaking forth into tears, flowing from a heart thoroughly affected with compassion and benevolence. Thus did many of her good works, while she lived, go up as a memorial before God, and some she left to follow her.

She died January 21, 1726, in the fifty-seventh year of her age, at Flaxley, her seat, in Gloucestershire; and was buried there."

Female Worthies.

BOWANNY, *the Wife of a Hindoo of Distinction, in the Province of Daira. Burnt herself on the Death of her Husband, in 1776.*

As this practice, the origin of which is lost in antiquity, has been the admiration and regret of so many ages, I have thought proper to bring forward one instance, respecting which an English gentleman, at that time of authority in the district, has kindly furnished me with authentic documents.

The ladies of Hindostan are allowed to marry once only; but, on the death of their husbands, they are legally entitled to a considerable share of his fortune, and may survive him, without incurring any reproach ;
the

the contrary practice is rare; yet there are still found victims of a false but heroic enthusiasm, who still prevent it from falling into disuse.

Seen by no other man but their husband, and confined within the walls of their apartments, ambition and vanity can only act on things of little import. The applause of the multitude, or future fame, would be faint inducements to such a sacrifice. The Hindoo women are not influenced either by those considerations, or entirely by affection or despair. Their law assures them, that this act ensures not only their own and their husband's salvation, but that of the children and parents of each. The heat of the climate makes it necessary to bury the same day on which a death happens. The widow who has formed this resolution, and repents before she has left the house and been exposed to public view, may be allowed to draw back; but when this is once done, the severity of their manners will not permit it.

Bowanny had been married about twelve years, and had three children. She had been tenderly attached to her husband, insomuch that she chose to dress his food with her own hands, and perform many duties, from which her rank exempted her. She attended him during his illness with the greatest solicitude, and her health and spirits seemed to fluctuate with his. About two months before his death, on his disorder increasing, he asked her, if he died, whether she would accompany him, which she promised, and never swerved from this resolution. As his fate grew more certain, her assiduities became more constant, she did not even withdraw at the entrance of his brothers, or hide her face from them. "For whom," said she, "should I now conceal myself." On his death, in the morning of the 12th

of March, 1776, she immediately declared her intention to burn with him, went and took out her bridal vestments for the occasion, and ordered other necessary preparations with the greatest calmness. Her temper was so mild, that she would never resent an injury or an affront, but would say, "it was the will of heaven she should suffer it." For the last two months she had never been seen to shed a tear.

As soon as they were acquainted with her determination, her family, relations, and friends persuaded her to break it; and particularly the mother and brothers of the deceased. They brought her children before her, and said they would want her care; but she replied, that "her soul was already gone; that she lived but for him she had lost; and, that she was bent upon a great business." She attended the body all the day, frequently looking at the countenance with smiles, and pressed for dispatch, saying, "she would go before night, and view the world on leaving it." Messages from the English chief were answered in the same way as the others had been, and when at length opposition ceased, she expressed the highest joy. She offered, if the family doubted her resolution, or feared she should disgrace them by timid behaviour, to give any proof, by suffering any torture, as a trial; but, nothing of this kind was permitted. She refused to see her children; but a speech she made to her mother-in-law, bespoke her interest in their welfare. "You have excited disputes against my husband," said she, "and of course against me; but, when we are gone, be kind to my children; they have not offended you. You see how this world passes away, act, then, with reference to a future state." The other wept; but did not speak a word in answer.

About

About an hour before sunset, the procession began. Bowanny was carried on a litter upon men's shoulders. She sat upright, by the side of her husband's body, which was covered with a linen cloth. She scattered about pieces of the money of that country, and some red powder. As they drew nearer the spot, the curtains of the litter were opened; and though the sun had been some time set, the strong illumination presented her distinctly to view. She kept one hand upon a tassel, which hung from the top of the litter, whilst with the other she held a fan over the corpse. Her figure was graceful, and rather larger than that of the generality of Hindoo women. She was dressed in the fashion of the country, in a red gauze striped and edged with gold, and had various gold and silver ornaments. The whole of her forehead was stained with vermilion, as is customary on the day of marriage. By this she was rather disfigured; but the lower parts of her face had some marks of beauty: while a placid countenance, bordering on melancholy, shewed a mind steady and collected. She was talking in a pleasant tone of voice to the bramins who walked beside her; and frequently raised her eyes to look around, without the least sign of confusion or disquiet at the sight of the numbers by whom she was surrounded. She once stayed the litter, to bless the English chief and his company, who from curiosity and interest had joined the train—and prayed at intervals, till they arrived at the burning place of the family.

No preparation had been made there for the ceremony; and when it was begun, a fearful time! Bowanny appeared still calm, but sometimes rather faint, as if from weakness, when she was supported by the bramins and her husband's brothers, and retired into

a temple, where her mother-in-law constantly resided. During this time her husband's body was uncovered. He was a handsome man, about thirty, and dressed in his bridal habiliments. An hour was employed in bringing wood and materials for the pile. It was made of large beams and moist plantain wood, laid cross-wise, over which was spread dry rushes, and a quantity of small billets of wood. While it was preparing, Bowanny sent twice to complain of the delay. After it had been raised about two feet from the ground, the litter, with the husband's body, was laid upon it, and soon afterwards she came from the temple, supported by the bramins, her husband's brothers, and four female attendants. She appeared weak, and often reclined her head. She repeated prayers dictated by the bramins, when near the pile, with her eyes lifted up to heaven. When close to it, she sate down upon the ground; they gave her the liquor of a cocoa-nut, and read over some ancient writing. She went only once round the pile, instead of three times, on account of her extreme weakness; and, when seated upon it, laid her hands upon the heads of those who crouded round, to bless them; but what she said was drowned by the hum of the people, and the noise of the music, which accompanied the procession. For a few moments, she appeared in a state of suspence, either affected with what she was going to suffer, or trying to recollect if more was necessary to be done. She then began to give away her ornaments, arranged the pillows of the bed, and, without the least discomposure, laid down on the left side of her husband, throwing one arm around him, and striving to support his head with the other. A sheet was then spread over them—on which rushes and sticks, sprinkled with ghee and oil, were laid to the height of two or three feet; when

when her son, a pretty boy about nine years old, lighted a taper, and, after walking round the pile, set fire to it, just beneath his mother's head. This signal being given, it was lighted on every side. At least ten minutes must have passed, after she lay down, before this took place, during which the pile appeared to heave; but the people who were near affirmed, she had not spoken one word or moved since she lay down; and that the motion was occasioned by people passing round it.

At first a thick black smoke arose, from the oil and moist boughs, which, perhaps, was humanely contrived to suffocate the victim. All remained steady; and when her death was certain, a general shout was raised by her attendants, who boasted of her fortitude to one another.

Some persons, from the superstitious idea that people near death have foresight into events, asked her, on the way to the burning place, to inform them of something they wished to know;—to which she meekly asked, if they took her for an astrologer?

When distributing her ornaments at the last, her husband's brother observed that a division of them at that time might create confusion; and that she had better finish what she had to do, when they might be taken out of the ashes by any who would search for them. "Very well," said she, "then I will lie down."

BREGI, (CHARLOTTE SAUMAISE DE CHASAN,
*Wife of the Count de) Lady of Honour to the Queen
Mother of Lewis XIV. Ambassador to Poland, Sweden,
&c. Born at Paris, 1619, died 1693, aged 74.*

A FRENCH lady of much wit, beauty, and vivacity; which qualities she preserved to an advanced age. A
collection

collection of her letters, to and from the most illustrious characters of the age, some of whom were crowned heads, and poems, were printed at Leyden, in 1668.

F. C.

BRIDGET, *a Swedish Princess, Wife of Ulfon, Prince of Nericia. Died at Rome, 1373.*

AFTER the death of her husband, she went to Rome, where she founded the order of the monks of St. Saviour, to which she gave rules, written in thirty-one chapters. Towards the end of her life, she went to Palestine, to visit places sanctified, in her idea, by the holy men, who had formerly inhabited them. There is a volume of revelations, under her name, in eight books. She was canonized in 1415.

F. C.

BROADSTREET, (ANNE) *a Poetess of New England, stiled in the Title to her Book of Poems, printed in Old England, 1650, "The Tenth Muse sprung up in America."*

THEY consisted chiefly of a description of the four elements, the four humours, the four ages, the four seasons, and the four monarchies.

Female Worthies, &c.

BROHAN, (MADEMOISELLE) *an ingenious French Writer, a Woman of Beauty and Virtue, afterwards married, but we know not the Name of her Husband.*

AT the age of eighteen, she had published many ingenious works. Some little romances appeared in the French Mercury; but her *chef d'œuvre* is *les Amans Philosophes*.

BROOKE,

BROOKE, (FRANCES) *Daughter of a Clergyman of the Name of Moore, Wife of the Rev. John Brooke, Rector of Colney, in Norfolk, of St. Augustin, at Norwich, and Chaplain to the Garrison of Quebec. Died at the House of her Son, at Sleaford, 1789, five Days after her Husband, of a spasmodic Complaint.*

As remarkable for her gentleness and suavity of manners as for her literary talents. Her first publication was, *The Old Maid*, a periodical work, begun Nov. 1755, and continued every Saturday, till July 1756; since collected in one volume 12mo. In the same year she published *Virginia, a Tragedy, with odes, pastorals, and translations*. In 1763, appeared the novel of *Lady Julia Mandeville*, which, though its plan was often disapproved, as too melancholy, the execution was universally admired. In the same year, she published *Letters from Juliet Lady Catesby, to Lady Henrietta Campley, translated from the French*. She soon after went to Canada, with her husband, and saw those romantic scenes, so admirably exhibited in her next work—*Emily Montague*, 4 vols. 1769. The next year came out, *Memoirs of the Marquis de St. Forlaix, a translation from the French*. On her return to England, she formed an intimacy with Mrs. Yates, and was persuaded by this lady to try her talents for tragedy again. Her first piece had been refused, by Garrick, and her second met with the same fate; which induced her to satirize him, in a novel, called *The Excursion*, 1777; but, afterwards lamented the severity she had shown. She translated *Elements of the History of England, from the Abbe Milot*, in four vols. 12mo. In January, 1781, the *Siege of Sinope*, a tragedy, was acted at Covent-garden. It ran five nights, but wanted force and originality. Her next
and

and most popular theatrical performance was *Rosina*, acted at Covent-garden, 1782. Few pieces have been equally successful, or have maintained their attractions so long. Her last work was *Marian*, brought out in 1788, but with inferior success to the former.

New Biographical Dictionary, &c.

BROOKE, (MISS) *Daughter of the Author of Gustavus Vasa and the Fool of Quality; inherited her Father's Genius. Died in 1793.*

SHE published a 4to. volume of poems, in 1792, "*Reliques of Irish Poetry, consisting of heroic Poems, Odes, Elegies, and Songs, translated into English Verse, &c.* published with a view to throw some light on the antiquities of her country, to vindicate, in part, its history, to prove its claim to scientific as well as military fame, and to awaken a just and useful curiosity on the subject of its poetical compositions." The pieces which she has selected unquestionably possess very great merit. They are distinguished by numerous instances of that sublimity, pathos, and charming simplicity which are discoverable in the artless compositions of early times. She was peculiarly fitted for this task; as she possessed very respectable poetical talents, heroic and elevated sentiments, a lively and bold imagination, and an elegant and cultivated taste; to which must be added an enthusiastic zeal for the literary honours of her country; which some may think she has carried to an excess, in the encomiums which she passes on the Irish language and music; and in her claims, for Ireland, to a more early civilization, refinement, and cultivated genius, than any other nation in Europe.

Europe. A novel, in one volume, said to be a posthumous work of Miss Brooke, has lately been published.

New Annual Register, &c.

BRUNEHAUT, *married A. D. 563. Died 613,*

DAUGHTER of Athanagildus, king of the Visigoths, in Spain, passed for the most accomplished princess of the age, and married Sigebert, king of Austrasia (one of the divisions of France) an amiable and valiant prince, but constantly engaged in war with the other descendants of Clovis, who divided France among them : he was assassinated by the agents of Fredegonde, in 575. Queen Brunehaut and her children were arrested ; but her only son, Childebert, escaped, and regained his father's dominions. Meroveus, the son of Chilperic, then married Brunehaut, and deeply angered his father. He was soon murdered : Brunehaut became regent during her son's minority, and was constantly engaged in wars ; Fredegonde frequently attempting to assassinate her and her son, but always failed. Childebert died, A. D. 596, leaving two children, who succeeded him, under the care of Brunehaut.

These brothers were continually quarrelling and jarring with each other. Theodebert, the eldest, expelled his grandmother from the court ; some say, she set them at variance, and, with vindictive wrath, meditated his destruction : but this is disbelieved. She lived afterwards with Thierry, king of Burgundy, her second grandson : at length, in 613, they all sunk beneath the power of Clothaire II. king of Paris. He had her grand children and great grand children murdered ;
and,

and, having ordered her to be brought before him, at the head of his army, reproached her, in the most indecent manner, with all the crimes that had been committed by his mother Fredegonde and himself: the troops, inflamed by this, called loudly for her death. During three days, she was exposed to their derision and insult, mounted on a camel, and paraded round the camp; on the fourth, she was tied to the tail of a horse, that had never been broken, and dashed to pieces on the ground; what remained of her body was thrown into the flames.

Authors are divided upon her character; some have drawn it as most vile; but the more respectable represent her as the perfect model of beauty and the graces, as a pattern of decency, wisdom, virtue, and meekness. Pope Gregory praises her as a princess ever attentive to the discharge of religious duties, a virtuous regent, and good mother; and her reign, notwithstanding all the detraction of calumny, has many instances of generosity, sense, firmness, and benevolence. There were, in after times, so many proofs of her public spirit remaining in castles, churches, monasteries, hospitals, and high roads, as almost to render it incredible they had been performed by the single monarch of a small part of France.

Gifford's History of France.

BUCCA, (DOROTHEA) *a learned Lady of Bologna, in the fifteenth Century; Daughter of a great Philosopher and Physician,*

WAS, from her childhood, instructed in literature, and profited so well by her studies, that she acquired
the

the dignity and insignia of a doctor in the university ; and, soon after, in the year 1436, she had a professorship there, and taught for many years with great reputation.

F C.

BUCHAN, (ELSPETH) *Daughter of an Inn-keeper in the North of Scotland. Born 1738 ; died 1791.*

AT the age of twenty-one, was sent to Glasgow to get a place, and soon after married Robert Buchan, a workman in a Delft manufactory there. At the time of her marriage, Mrs. Buchan was of the episcopal persuasion ; but her husband being a burgher seceder, she soon adopted his principles. She had been always a constant reader of the scriptures, and being of a visionary turn of mind, took many allegorical expressions in a strictly literal sense. In 1779, a great change took place in her opinions ; she became the promulgator of many singular doctrines, and obtained many respectable, even clerical proselytes ; among them, Mr. Whyte, of Troine : but, in 1790, the populace of that place broke all the windows of that gentleman's house, where the Buchanites, as they were then termed, were assembled ; on which Mrs. Buchan and her converts, to the number of forty-nine, left the place ; and after some peregrinations, settled at a farm house thirteen miles from Dumfries. They paid for every thing they received, always kept the bible about them, and conversed much about religion. Declaring the last day to be at hand ; that none of their company should ever die, but soon hear the voice of the last trumpet, when all the wicked should be struck dead for a thousand years ; but they should be caught up to meet our Saviour in the air, and
return

return with him to possess the earth for that time ; at the which, the grand enemy shall be loosed, and attack them ; but be repulsed and conquered.

On adopting this persuasion, they neither married, nor considered themselves as bound by any earthly tie, or having any separate property. To live a holy life, to be careless of the morrow ; and, if they work for others, to refuse wages, or any other consideration, doing it merely for the purpose of promulgating their opinions, were the principles of this harmless sect ; which was soon greatly reduced in number.

New Biog. Dict.

BURE, (CATHERINE) *a learned Swedish Lady.*
Died 1679 ; aged 77,

WAS well versed in the sciences, and wrote perfectly well in Latin. Many of her letters to Vendela Skytte, another learned Swedish lady, are in that language.

F. C. &c.

BURINI, (BARBARA). *Born 1700. An excellent Painter.*

BURLEIGH, (MILDRED, LADY) *eldest Daughter of Sir Anthony Cook. Born 1526, died 1589.*

DR. Wotton, in his *Reflections on antient and modern Learning*, assures us, that no age was so productive of learned women as the sixteenth century. Speaking of the flourishing condition learning was in at that time, he says, “ it was so very modish, that the fair sex seemed to believe the Greek and Latin added to their charms ;

charms; and that Plato and Aristotle, untranslated, were frequent ornaments of their closets. One would think, by the effects, that it was a proper way of educating them, since there are no accounts in history of so many great women in any one age, as are to be found between fifteen and sixteen hundred." And Erasmus, speaking of those times, says, "The scene of human things is changed; the monks, famed in times past for learning, are become ignorant; and women love books. It is pretty enough that this sex should now betake itself to the ancient examples."

The reason which Mr. Strype gives for this is, the great care which Henry VIII. took in the education of his daughters. But perhaps it may more probably be ascribed to the noble art of printing, which had just then awakened the minds of people, and furnished them with a vast variety of books to improve their understanding. To this may be added the example of Sir Thomas More, whose daughters were celebrated, even in foreign countries, for their great skill in the learned languages, the arts, and sciences, before the daughters of king Henry VIII. were born. But, however this may be, parents in those times, might imagine, with a polite and elegant writer, "That, in a country where women are admitted to a familiar and constant share in every active scene of life, particular care should be taken in their education, to cultivate their reason, and form their hearts, that they may be equal to the part they have to act."

Among those gentlemen, who so worthily distinguished themselves in the care they took in the education of their daughters, none deserve greater praise than Sir Anthony Cooke, one of the tutors to king Ed-

ward VI. who bestowed so liberal education on his daughters, that they became the wonders of the age, and were sought in marriage, as Camden and Lloyd observe, by some of the greatest men of that time, more for their natural and acquired accomplishments than their portions. The eldest of these ladies is the subject of this narrative.

Great care and pains were taken of her education, which she fully repaid; being as eminent for her great learning and good sense, in the early part of her life, as exemplary for her piety and charity in the latter. She was extremely well skilled in the Greek and Latin tongues; but more particularly in the former, having Mr. Lawrence, the great Grecian, for her preceptor. She took great delight in reading the works of Basil, Cyril, Chrysostom, Gregory Nazianzen, and others. She translated a piece of St. Chrysostom's out of Greek into English, as the author of the *Life of Lord Treasurer Burleigh* informs us. And when she presented the university library in Cambridge with the great Bible in Hebrew and other languages, she sent it with an epistle in Greek, written with her own hand.

On the 21st of December, in the year 1546, and in the 20th year of her age, she was married to Sir William Cecil, afterwards created lord Burleigh, lord high treasurer of England, and privy-counsellor to queen Elizabeth, by whom she had many children, all of whom died young, excepting two daughters.

After a long and happy marriage of 42 years, she died April 4, 1589, in the 63d year of her age. She was a woman of exemplary virtue, and engaging qualities. Of an admirable understanding, and (if a judgment may be formed by her letters) as good a politician as her husband.

band *. She was buried in the abbey church of Westminster, where a magnificent monument is erected to her memory.

Five days after her decease, lord Burleigh wrote, what he calls, *A Meditation on the Death of his Lady*, 'written in sorrow;' in which he praised her zeal for the maintenance of learning; by her many benefactions to Cambridge, Oxford, and Westminster; her widely extended benevolence; and the secrecy with which she did all these things, so that even he knew them not during her life.

New Annual Register; Female Worthies.

BURNETT, (ELIZABETH), *Born 1661; died 1708-9, Eldest Daughter of Sir Richard Blake, and of Elizabeth, Daughter of Dr. Bathurst, a Physician in London, a Gentleman of eminent Piety, and one of the most considerable Men of his Profession.*

At eleven years of age she began to have a true sense of religion, and read, with great application, the books that were put into her hand; but was not quite satisfied, aspiring after more solid and sublime notions than what she found in them. On this account, more than ordinary care was taken to make her think meanly of herself, she being bred up in the greatest privacy possible.

At little more than seventeen, she was married to Robert Berkley, of Spetchley, in the county of Worcester, Esq; grandson of Sir Robert Berkley, who was a judge in the time of king Charles I. This match was procured chiefly by the means of doctor Fell, lord

* See Mr. Cart's General History of England, vol. iii. p. 670.

bishop of Oxford, who was that gentleman's guardian, and had taken care of his education. That great prelate, so famous for his piety and learning, thought the forwarding this match the greatest service he ever rendered his pupil.

When she came into Mr. Berkley's family, she found that gentleman's mother, who had great interest with him, a pious woman, but a zealous Papist. This induced her to study her own religion more, in order to understand the controversies between it and the church of Rome. But, considering the particular turn of his mind, and the great deference he paid to his mother, she found herself obliged to be very tender and careful, that he might not be disturbed with unnecessary disputes about religion, in which, and in her whole management in this respect, she shewed admirable discretion.

At the same time, she obliged herself to more than ordinary strictness in her whole conduct, that she might adorn her own profession by a suitable practice; and, living in the country, where she had much leisure, she spent great part of her time in devotion and reading; and, when she would divert herself with work, she generally had some person to read to her. When her poor neighbours came to visit her (which, encouraged by her, they often did), that she might instruct them without seeming to take too much upon her, she would frequently read good books to them.

In this manner she lived for six years, esteemed even by those, who, on account of different opinions in religion, were likely to be prejudiced against her.

In king James's time, on the death of bishop Fell, who had great influence over Mr. Berkley, and visited him once a year, to prevent his being wrought upon by his relations, at a time when they had hopes of seeing
their

their religion established by law, she prevailed with him to go to Holland, and travelled with him over the seventeen provinces, where, on account of his relations, they met with an unusual kind reception ; letters being sent, without their knowledge, to Brussels, Ghent, Liege, and other considerable places, recommending Mrs. Berkley in a very particular manner, as one who, had she been of the catholic church, would have deserved the title of saint.

After this, they were both fixed at the Hague, where she was soon known, and acquired the friendship of persons of the highest rank, till about the time of the revolution, when they returned into England, and retired to Spetchley, his country seat.

Her knowledge and virtue made her, every day, more acquaintance in that country. She contracted an intimate friendship with doctor Stillingfleet, bishop of Worcester, who said, upon several occasions, that he knew not a *more considerable* woman in England. Nor was she less esteemed by many other excellent persons. Mr. Berkley dying in the year 1693, she applied herself wholly to devotion, reading, acts of charity, and the offices of friendship ; particularly she took upon her the care of her late husband's protestant relations, as if they had been her own, providing for them, even at her death, and was also very kind and obliging to all the rest of his family.

While she continued at Spetchley, she kept an hospitable table, to which the neighbouring clergy were always welcome. She paid true respect to those who were in low circumstances, heartily esteeming them for the sake of their functions and labours. She frequently made them presents of the most useful books, and to some generously lent money, expecting only to be

paid when, by the providence of God, they might be put into more easy circumstances.

Mr. Berkley ordering, in his will, a great sum of money to be raised out of his estate, to erect an hospital at Worcester for poor people; she had it much at heart to see his plan brought to perfection. Besides the care of this, she took upon her several charges in relation to his affairs, more than the law required, in the payment of debts and legacies; and continued still one eminent instance of charity, which is now spread almost all over England; the setting up schools for the instruction and education of poor children, which she afterwards increased to a much greater number.

She had early an inclination to employ her pen in several sorts of compositions, in which she was encouraged by the approbation of her friends: and while she was a widow, made the first draught of a *Method of Devotion*, for her own use only; consisting of such rules and directions as she resolved to conduct herself by, and which, indeed, had been all along the measure of her practice. The original manuscript was lately in the library of that celebrated antiquary, Mr. Ralph le Thoresby, of Leeds, who, in the catalogue of his MSS. gives the following account of it: “ Rules for the Lord’s day; days of humiliation and fasting, public and private; concerning the Lord’s Supper; Christmas meditations; upon death, &c.—This is the original; writ by the ingenious and pious author, Mrs. Elizabeth Burnet. In this are also a soliloquy upon her ladyship’s return to her closet at Salisbury, April 9, 1703; and; a prayer for my lord bishop, her husband, whose acceptable present it was.”

She continued a widow near seven years, and then married the Rev. Gilbert (Burnet) lord bishop of Salisbury,

bury, where she found a family of children, whom she treated not with a false indulgence; but with the care and true concern of a real mother, and was loved and respected by them as if she had been so in reality; of which the bishop was so sensible, that he, by his will then made, left them entirely under her care and authority; and judging rightly, that she brought blessing and happiness enough into his family, by bringing herself into it, desired to secure all her own estate and income to herself, with a power of making such a will as she pleased, to which he bound himself to consent. Thus she continued mistress of all that was her own; but allowed to him, for her expenditure, a sum not exceeding the rate of a boarding house, that so she might have more for charitable purposes; an allowance which the bishop accepted of, though he was desirous, and often told her so, that nothing should be deducted on that account. She was uneasy at using even a fifth part of her income for herself; seldom going beyond, often within it. The number of children taught at her expence, in and about Worcester and Salisbury, were above an hundred.

Notwithstanding the interruptions which a more general acquaintance gave her, she spent as much time as she could, in writing upon divine and moral subjects, and was prevailed upon to consent to printing the first edition of the *Method of Devotion*. This being very much approved of by many of her friends, she thought she could make it more useful by adding a great deal to it out of many other papers she had by her; and accordingly printed a second edition of it at her own expence, which she disposed of amongst those whom she thought most likely to be profited by it.

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She had no skill in the learned languages ; but having made the scriptures her chief study, by the help of English commentators, and the clergy, with whom she frequently conversed, she attained a great degree of knowledge in them. Though her mind was naturally inquisitive, her apprehensions quick, and her judgment solid, she confined her inquiries to a few things. Therefore, when she had made some progress, both in geometry and philosophy, she laid these studies aside, though she had both a genius and a relish for them. Her chief care was to govern her passions, to subdue her affections, and to obtain an entire resignation and conformity to the will of God. She was constant in reading the scriptures daily. She used to say, that as to the practical parts, the reading them with a spirit of humility and simplicity of heart, together with earnest prayer to understand the will of our heavenly Father, was the best way to know whether any doctrine was of God, or not.

In her general discourse, she suited herself to the company she was in, as far as was consistent with the rules of propriety and charity. She was generally cheerful, but set a most strict guard over her lips, without seeming to do so. Her design, indeed, was to render a strictness in religion as agreeable as possible, and to show that it did not take away that ease and freedom which is the life of conversation.

Nobody despised more the pomps of the world, yet she conformed to the apparel and way of life, which was suitable to her rank, without affecting singularity in any thing.

Her constitution was always very tender ; but in the year 1707, it declined so fast, that she was advised to go to Spa, for the recovery of her health. By this
means

means she retrieved it a little while ; but in January, 1707, fell sick of a pleuritic fever, which proved fatal ; but she shewed all along a full resignation of mind to the will of God, and a patient enduring of pain. After her voice quite failed her, as things were spoken in her hearing, she shewed, by the lifting up of her hands, and other signs, in what a happy calm she then possessed her soul ; how easy and comfortable her passage was, and how earnestly she recommended the practice of true religion to all about her. She was buried at Spetchley, by the side of her former husband, agreeable to a promise she had made him.

Female Worthies.

BURY, (ELIZABETH) *Daughter of Captain Adams Lawrence, of Lynton, in Cambridgeshire. Born at Clare, 1664 ; died at Bristol, 1720.*

HAS been characterised as a person of uncommon parts, ready thought, quick apprehension, and proper expression. She was always very inquisitive into the nature and reason of things, and thought herself obliged to any who would give her instruction.

In common conversation, she had often sharp turns, and ready replies, which were softened with such an ingenuous air, that they could very seldom be resented. In writing letters, she had a great felicity of expression ; and was thought so close and pertinent, that her correspondence was greatly valued by some of the brightest minds, even in distant countries. She studied philology, philosophy, history, ancient and modern, heraldry, the globes, mathematics, and music, vocal and instrumental. She learnt French, chiefly to converse with French refugees, to whom she

was

was an uncommon benefactress; but especially applied herself to Hebrew, which, by long application and practice, she rendered so familiar and easy, as frequently to quote the original, when the true meaning of some particular texts of scripture depended upon it. She made critical remarks on the idioms and peculiarities of that language, which were found among her papers after her decease.

Another study which she took much pleasure in was anatomy and medicine, being led and prompted to it by her own ill health, and a desire of being useful to her neighbours. But, however she amused herself with these, her constant and favourite study was divinity, especially the scriptures; having, from her childhood, taken God's testimonies for her counsel. But notwithstanding all her knowledge and unusual attainments, in so many professions, faculties, kinds of literature, and important truths of religion, she always confessed and bewailed her own ignorance, saying that she knew little in comparison of what others did, or what she ought to have known.

She was very charitable to the poor, sparing no pains nor expence, in her widowhood, to carry on her designs for the relief of miserable families exiled for religion; for erecting charity schools; for the maintenance of ministers and candidates, and for a stock of bibles and practical books to be distributed as she should see occasion. She very much approved of every one's devoting a certain part of their estates to pious and charitable uses; "for then," says she, "they will not grudge to give out of a bag that is no longer their own." She was very exemplary in her devotions, and would often say she wondered how people could, by any omission of duty, deprive themselves of one of the greatest privileges

leges allowed us. She rose every morning at four o'clock, from the eleventh year of her age ; and at five, if sickness or pain did not prevent her, during the latter part of her life.

She carefully endeavoured to improve the day in company and conversation with her friends ; was always well furnished with matter of useful discourse, and could make very happy transitions from worldly to serious talk ; but would often complain of the loss of much precious time, in giving and receiving visits, and say, she could not be satisfied with such a life, wherein she could neither do nor receive good, but must keep to her closet and her book.

Her first marriage was to Griffith Lloyd, Esquire, of Hemmington Grey, in Huntingdonshire, 1667, in the 23d year of her age. He was a gentleman of good reputation and estate, of great usefulness to his country, whilst in the commission of the peace ; and afterwards as a reconciler of differences, and common patron of the oppressed. They lived happily together about fifteen years.

Her second marriage was to Mr. Samuel Bury, a dissenting minister, 1697. At the 77th year of her age, after a short illness of a few days, she left this world without either sigh or groan, and with a pleasant smile on her countenance. Dr. Watts wrote an elegy on her death, in which he speaks of her in the highest strain of praise.

She left behind her a large Diary, which Mr. Bury, her husband, abridged and published. Amongst her miscellaneous papers were the following discourses : *Meditations on the Divinity of the Holy Scriptures. The several Parts of the Creation. The Extent, Efficacy, and Mystery of Providence. A Believer's Union with Christ.*

Christ. His Communion with his own Heart. His walking with God. His regulating his Thoughts, Speech, and Actions. The whole Duty and Happiness of Man. The grand Treasure of all Scripture Promises. The Unreasonableness of Fretting against God. The Mansion of the Soul of Man. The Resurrection of the Body. Critical Observations in Anatomy, Medicine, Mathematics, Musick, Philosophy, and Rhetorick.

CALDERINA, (BETTINA) *a Lady of Bologna, of great Knowledge, particularly in the Law, which was the Profession of her Husband,*

WHEN he was prevented by business or ill health, she gave public lectures on that science with great applause.

F. C.

CALIPSO, or CALLISSA, *a female Painter of Antiquity.*

CALLICRATA, *a Grecian Woman, famous for political Knowledge, in which she instructed others,*

Is celebrated by Anacreon : Plato also speaks of her in very high terms.

CALVIN,

CALVIN, (MISS) *Daughter of a House Painter, at Penrith, in Cumberland; an ingenious Man in many Things beyond his Profession.*

A LADY whose botanical paintings highly merit the attention of the curious: for delicacy of colouring and taste in the disposition of the foliage and flowers, together with the scientific accuracy of the work, her finished pieces vie with any paintings of the kind in Europe. After Mr. Pennant visited this great artist, he could not forbear noting; "Miss Calvin, of exquisite skill in painting plants and flowers, with equal elegance and accuracy: a heaven-born genius, obscure and unknown."

She at length was patronised by Lady Lonsdale, and removed to London, where, soon afterwards, she died without reaping much public fame.

Hutchinson's Cumberland.

CAMBIS, (MARGARET DE) *a French Lady of Languedoc, in the sixteenth Century,*

TRANSLATED several works from the Italian.

F. C.

CAMBRA, *called the Beautiful, Daughter of Belinus, one of the ancient British Kings,*

WAS an able mathematician, and exerted her talents and erudition in the service of her country. She is said to have invented the manner of building and fortifying citadels. Her understanding was so excellent and her knowledge so extensive, that the king and his statesmen consulted her on all important affairs.

F. C.

CAMBRY,

CAMBRY, (JANE DE) *Native of Tournay. Became a Nun of Lyons; in 1625 ; died 1639 ;*

WROTE several religious works ; one was on *The Ruin of Self, and Erection of divine Love.*

F. C.

CAMMA, *a Lady of Galatia,*

WIFE of Sinatus, assassinated by Sinorix, who was in love with Camma, and sought to espouse her. She resisted his prayers and entreaties ; but, fearing his power, determined to feign a consent, in order to avenge the death of her husband. She was priestess of the temple of Diana, where the marriage was to be celebrated. It was a custom for the new-married couple to drink out of the same cup. Camma poisoned the beverage ; and, drinking first herself, gave it to the unsuspecting Sinorix ; then, delighted with the success of her plan, she bade him tell his attendants to prepare his tomb, and said, she died with joy to revenge her husband.

F. C.

CAMUS, (CHARLOTTE DE) *a French Lady in the Beginning of the last Century,*

MUCH celebrated for her poetical talents ; her pieces are scattered in different collections, but not esteemed much at present.

F. C.

CAN-

CANDAHARI, or KHANDAHARI (JEMILA) *the favourite Attendant, or first Lady of the Bedchamber, to the young Tartar Queen of Mahmoud, the great Sultan of Ghezna, who conquered Hindostan, and many other Kingdoms of the East, at the End of the tenth, and Beginning of the eleventh Century,*

APPEARS by the account of the penetrating statesman, Vizir Nezam, to have been the chief, though secret spring of every ministerial movement. She was handsome, and endowed with uncommon parts; a steady friend, and a determined, but not a cruel enemy. She protected her favourites in the most dangerous situations; and hurled with a sure and inevitable arm, disappointment and disgrace on the heads of those that wished to rise upon their ruin.

Altun Tash was the first omra of the divan; when the government of Kharezme being vacant, he solicited the appointment. As he was esteemed the chief pillar of the throne, the court was surprised that he should have accepted it: and a friend begging to know what could induce him to resign the power he had over so vast an empire, to take the charge of a court? he replied, "By the God who created heaven and earth, the secret which I shall now disclose to you I have not revealed to any living soul. It was the enmity of Jemila Kandahari, and that only, which made me give up the power I had over this great empire. For many years have the affairs thereof been under my management; and in that time, whatever I tied she unloosed, and whatever I unloosed she tied. Whatever she resolved upon I was incapable of opposing; and whatever she opposed, it was in vain for me to attempt. Vexed with being continually foiled, and unable to apply a remedy, the world

world appeared dark in my eyes, and I voluntarily threw myself into this retirement."

We must not suppose that this influence was thus powerful in the court of a weak or a dissipated prince: Mahmoud was one of the greatest monarchs who ever reigned; almost the whole of his large empire he had conquered himself; and it was governed entirely under his own inspection. The resentment Jemila Khandahari, or, literally, *the beauty of Khandahar*, bore to Altun Tash, was occasioned by his opposition to the Vizir Ahmed Hassen, whom she patronised. Gallantry, at the same time, does not appear to have had any concern in her operations; for Nezam observes, [that though her favourite Ahmed corresponded with her often, they did not see one another perhaps once in twelve months.

Richardson's Dissertations on the Languages of Eastern Nations.

CANTOFOLI, (GINEURA) *a female Painter of Bologna,*

Who learned the art of the celebrated Siranus; and from small paintings passed to greater works, which are seen in many altar-pieces, and other places.

Abec. Pitt.

CANTONI, (CATHERINE) *a noble Milanese; but more distinguished for her Talents in Design, and Embroidery, or Painting on Cloth.*

SHE painted for the Infanta of Austria; their serene highnesses of Brunswick and Tuscany; Philip II.
accepted

king of Spain, and other princes. She brought her art even to taking portraits from the life, flourished about 1590.

Absc. Pitt.

CAPELLO, (BIANCA) *of the noble House of the Capelli at Venice, Grand Duchess of Tuscany. Died 1587.*

AGREEABLE to the customs of her country, Bianca spent the earlier days of her youth, remote from all society but that of her relations, in the palace of her father, Bartolomeo Capello. She, however, attracted the notice of a young Florentine, who was clerk at an opposite merchant's counting-house, called Pietro Buonavventuri, youth of low parents, handsome in his person, amiable in his manners, of unbounded ambition, and fond of intrigue. This natural bent of his mind, which had repeatedly involved him in many a hazardous situation, prompted him to court the affections of Bianca.

He got acquainted with her as she went to mass, attended by her maid. On this occasion, he thought proper to give himself out for a partner in the house of Salviati, in which he served; and Bianca, dazzled by exterior appearance, eagerly listened to his tale. She drew her maid into her interest; and, it was agreed, that they should meet by means of false keys. But the time came, when their intercourse could no longer be concealed; and Bianca seeing no other means of safety, yielded to the request of her lover, purloined a set of jewels from her father, and left Venice.

On this journey, Buonavventuri first informed her of his real situation in life, and she saw herself compelled to make him a tender of her hand. A priest per-

formed the marriage ceremony, in a village near Bologna: and, after some wanderings, they both arrived at Florence, in the house of his father, where Bianca was soon after delivered of a daughter.

At Venice this elopement caused great disturbance. Her family called loudly for vengeance. The new married couple were banished the country, as outlawed robbers; a reward of a thousand ducats was offered, to whoever should bring them to justice; and the accomplices were suffered to die in prison.

Bianca was not ignorant of the severe decree. She was informed, that several banditti had been dispatched to Florence to find her out. Thus situated, the only safety she could hope for, was, from Francesco, the ruler of Tuscany, son of Cosmo; and to him she applied.

She is supposed to have become acquainted with that prince in 1564. The accident which occasioned this connection is uncertain; but it is said, that a disturbance in the street, called her one day to her window, at the very moment when he passed by on horseback, when her uncommon beauty attracted his attention; and, from that time she kept herself still more confined at home, and even neglected to go to public worship.

She had, however, made a deep impression on the prince, who, by means of a lady, who traced her out, and made acquaintance with her, obtained the means of an interview, as if by chance. She implored his protection. The disposition of her mind had been impaired by the event which had driven her from her country: she had acquired the skill of eluding, by artifice and cunning, the persecutions of her family and the laws. In him she met with a protector, who took her part with spirit,

spirit. He entered into a negociation with the republic in her behalf, and endeavoured to obtain her pardon, through the means both of the Florentine agent, and the nuncio of the pope; but every effort proved unsuccessful. He was become so infatuated, that his liberality towards Bianca knew no bounds. He spent the greatest part of his leisure time in her company, whilst she in return seemed to live for her benefactor, rather than her husband.

At first, the connection was kept secret. His father, Cosmo, had, in the very same year in which Francesco formed his acquaintance with her, invested him with the greatest part of the ducal dignity and power, and himself retired into solitude.

It was in the year 1566, a short time after the marriage of the prince with Joanna of Austria, that Bianca was introduced at court, and the partiality of the prince publicly avowed. He supported her in all she undertook, complied with her whims, and went so far as to pronounce a solemn vow, that she should be his consort, as soon as both parties were at liberty.

Whilst Bianca enjoyed the favours of the prince, Buonavventuri experienced the effects of his unbounded liberality; Francesco invested him with the office and title of chamberlain; consulted him on the concerns of the state, and gave him a share in the government. This unexpected change of fortune so elated him, that he committed acts of the most cruel oppression, and treated Florentines of the first rank with extreme neglect and contempt; but, engaging in an intrigue with a lady of noble family, from which the menaces and complaints of her relations, and the counsel of Francesco and Bianca could not deter him, he was assassinated in 1562. The

prince promised Bianca to avenge him, but neglected to do it.

She was now the avowed mistress of Francesco. All Florence was shocked at his conduct, and the most severe satires were circulated on the occasion, which, however, instead of bringing him back to the path of virtue, produced the contrary effect. Whoever had a petition to the prince, must apply to her; and, whoever had the promise of her support, might be assured of success: whereas, on the other hand, oppression was the lot of him, who happened to incur her displeasure. This made her an object of abhorrence and execration with the people.

Bianca foresaw, that, notwithstanding the partiality of the prince, the discontent of the public might prove highly dangerous to her. To steer clear of this rock, she resolved to court the friendship of those individuals of the family of the Medici, who had some influence both on the prince and the people, particularly of his brother, the cardinal Ferdinando, who had but a small share in the confidence of his brother, but enjoyed the affections of the people; and perhaps was the only individual of the family generally beloved by the Florentines. She managed to lay him under obligations, by obtaining an augmentation of his revenue, which he had in vain solicited from his brother. She shewed him the most uncommon deference on every occasion, and secured the good will of the cardinal, notwithstanding she was the rival of his brother's consort.

By this politic conduct she soon obtained a perfect sway over the most prominent characters in the family of the Medici; and her influence at court rested on a basis the more solid, as Francesco gave her daily new proofs
of

of his attachment. Every body, even her avowed enemies, allow, that to the most uncommon beauty she united the art, still more uncommon, of dispensing pleasure and contentment, and of destroying the seeds of distrust and suspicion; qualities which could not fail to render her company daily more and more valuable to the prince. He was unhappy in his marriage, and the dissensions, which constantly prevailed between him and his brothers, afforded him but little satisfaction in his family. Unpleasant and severe in her manners, the prince soon conceived an unfeigned aversion for his wife. He shunned her company, and took refuge with Bianca. She became the object of universal admiration; for her the most splendid entertainments were given, whilst the grand duchess sunk into total oblivion and neglect. This exasperated her to such a degree against Bianca, that, having once met her with Francesco on the bridge of La Trinita, she was fully determined to have her thrown into the Arno. She was just giving one of her servants orders for that purpose, when Count Heliodoro Castelli, who attended her, had the good fortune to deter her from the attempt, by representing, that this notion of hers was a temptation of the devil, which she ought to resist. The religious princess startled at the idea, retired penitent, and Bianca was saved, who found means sometime afterwards to mitigate the hatred of her rival, and even for a short time to obtain her favour.

On every occasion that had hitherto occurred, Bianca had shewn her skill and artifice. Yet all her undertakings, during the first ten years of her residence at Florence, had not exceeded the bounds of that influence, which every handsome and artful favourite may have on the heart of a weak and blinded sovereign. The great plans which she had conceived from the very moment

when Francesco made her the solemn promise of marriage, could not be carried into execution during the life of Cosmo; but his death, in 1574, and the accession of her lover to the sovereignty of the dukedom, gave her full scope for developing and perfecting her schemes with less restraint. Bianca knew the anxiety of Francesco, who as yet had only daughters, for a male heir. When he promised her his hand, as soon as they should be at liberty, he had added the express condition, that she must first have a son. The assassination of Bianca's husband had removed the grand obstacle on her side, whilst the declining health of the grand duchess, which was still more impaired through her unhappy temper, seemed to forbode her approaching dissolution; yet this grand obstacle still remained; but her former situation had inspired her with resolution; and she knew, by the tenor of her own life, to what length artifice, attended with perseverance, would go. Whenever she met with an obstacle in her way, the most shocking acts of cruelty, and the meanest fraud, could not deter her, if they served her purpose. Of this she gave the most convincing proofs on the present occasion. In 1576, a supposititious child was imposed on the grand duke, who readily believed what he wished; yet Bianca did not expect that her stratagem should remain concealed, whilst there existed any one who knew of it. She therefore contrived to rid herself of the witnesses; they were all either murdered, drowned in the Arno, or some way or other dispatched. Joanna Santi, her maid and principal agent, a year after the transaction, was dismissed by Bianca and sent to Bologna; but on her passage over the Appennines, was assaulted by a set of disguised banditti, who wounded her with several musquet-shots. She however arrived
alive

alive at Bologna, where she made an authentic declaration of every thing she knew of this affair, and of the violent death of all those who had any knowledge of it. She declared, that she took her murderers for banditti, hired by Bianca, who, fearing lest she should reveal her secret, had determined upon her assassination. This deposition was forwarded to Cardinal Ferdinando, who during Bianca's life never made use of it against her.

Other suspicions had before arisen; but Francesco could not think of the possibility of a deception; and his joy in having a son was so great, that he never made the least inquiry into the business; but, on the contrary, publicly acknowledged the little Don Antonio as his offspring. Bianca, on her part, used every effort to endear the child to him. Letters are yet extant in the archives of Florence, which she caused him to write to his supposed father, when he was scarcely two years old. This is indeed but a trifling circumstance in itself, but it evidently shews, how artfully she seized upon every opportunity of courting the prince's affections for the boy.

It was at this period, that a reconciliation took place between Bianca and her family. Her father, in 1576, paid her a visit at Florence, and was loaded with presents from the grand duke and his daughter; but this reconciliation was not considered in a very favourable light at Venice. He was never afterwards received in the senate, notwithstanding he was permitted to attend at the grand council. His connections with Bianca brought Francesco, that same year, into several disagreeable situations: they had not only become the subject of general satire and ridicule to all the courts of Italy, but likewise threatened to bring on a very serious rupture

rupture with the court of Vienna, had it not been averted by the death of the emperor Maximilian, brother to the grand-duchess ; but his successor, Rudolph, whose interest it was to be upon good terms with the grand-duke, endeavoured, ineffectually, to bring about a reconciliation. But on the birth of an heir to the dukedom, Francesco behaved with more kindness to his wife.

Nobody now doubted that Bianca would soon be removed. She actually retired from Florence for awhile, and lived either at her villa, or at Bologna, far from the court, and apparently in no connection with the prince. But from this very circumstance she derived the greatest advantage. He could not live absent from the society he loved, and, in the following year, Bianca returned from her voluntary exile, but continued in appearance a life of retirement for some time. The grand-duchess was fully convinced, that her husband had relinquished all connections with her. The pleasing deception did not, however, last long. She once happened to meet them as they were going into the country : and, it is thought this circumstance occasioned her death, which has commonly been attributed to a fall. So much is certain, that she returned home with the symptoms of the most profound dejection, and that very day was seized with an illness which put a period to her life.

At the solemnity of her funeral, no symptom of grief was visible on his countenance ; and when the procession approached the house of Bianca, who then stood at her window, the grand duke took off his mourning cap, and bowed to her. How little he was affected appears plain enough from the circumstance, that immediately after the interment, he attended a rout at Bianca's house.

The

The latter, unable to hide the pleasure she felt, had now great hopes of becoming his wife. He had given her his promise upon oath, and Don Antonio passed, at least with the people, as his son. A circumstance which raised her expectations still more was, that he refused to listen to the proposals of a marriage with the daughter of another sovereign prince. But, on the other hand, if he married the person who was publicly looked upon as the cause of all the mortifications his departed consort had experienced, he must dread the displeasure of the house of Austria, whose support was necessary for the support of his ambitious views. His best ministers and the ecclesiastics, attending his court, advised him to give up every connection with her; and he himself was unsteady in his resolutions.

He consulted his ministers and his confessor; and even took a tour to accomplish the victory over his feelings. She saw how much she had to fear, and frequently wrote to him, varying her style according to the circumstances. Sometimes she would entreat him in the most solemn manner not to withdraw his word; then appear to resign herself to her destiny and leave Florence. She actually prepared for her departure, which, however, was delayed till the return of Francesco. Her agents were continually busied with representations in her favour; and, when the grand-duke was sufficiently prepared, she unexpectedly paid him a visit. This was more than his resolution could withstand. He resumed the wonted course of his visits, and at last prepared an apartment for her in the ducal palace.

At this time he fell ill. Her tender attention, and the care she took of him till his recovery, endeared her more
than

than ever to him, and before his recovery, in 1567, they were privately married.

This was kept very secret during the mourning for the late grand-duchess. Nobody was surprised at Bianca's having apartments assigned her in the palace, because a report prevailed that she had been appointed governess to the young princesses. Meanwhile Francesco was employed in sounding the opinion of the king of Spain, concerning his marriage, without whose concurrence he thought fit to do nothing of any importance; and, having been apprized of his approbation, he published his union with Bianca at the expiration of the mourning.

Cardinal Ferdinando seems to have received intelligence of this marriage some time before it was publicly known. He refrained from manifesting his displeasure; he did not then suppose she would be declared grand-duchess. But Francesco was aware that his matrimonial connection with a person, who had fled from Venice, had been married to a man of vulgar extraction, and afterwards been his own mistress, would be generally considered in a very dubious light. He endeavoured therefore to elude this unfavourable opinion, by applying to the Venetian senate to confer upon Bianca the title of a daughter of the Republic. These republicans had long before, from deep political motives, created this title, by which they enabled the daughters of the patricians to intermarry with sovereigns, and to assume the rank of princesses. The lady, who obtained this distinction, had, in her quality of a daughter of Venice, the precedence over all the rest of the Italian princesses, and was, by all the world considered as the daughter of a sovereign.

On the seventeenth of July, 1597, Bianca was, by a decree

decree of the senate, invested with this rank ; and in their answers to the obliging letters of the duke, stiled grand-duchess ; though it cannot be proved, that Francesco intended her that dignity at the time when he married her. Nor can we infer, from the first letters of Bianca, that she at that time had any notion of being elevated to the throne. But they affected to suppose, the pompous title of a daughter of the Republic would not otherwise have been sued for in her behalf.

This important measure being thus resolved on, it was the wish of the grand-duke to see Bianca's coronation as a daughter of the Republic, and her presentation as grand-duchess, performed with the greatest pomp and solemnity ; he therefore requested the Venetians to send ambassadors to Florence to assist at her coronation ; and report says, that they, even in the most glorious epochs of their commonwealth, never sent so splendid an embassy before.

On the thirteenth of October, 1597, she was publicly proclaimed grand-duchess of Tuscany, crowned daughter of the republic of Venice, and received the oath of allegiance, in the presence of the Florentine nobility, and a number of foreigners of distinction. During the stay of the ambassadors at Florence, Francesco displayed all his splendour ; and his expences on the occasion are said to have amounted to one million of scudi. Bianca's father received a considerable annual pension, and she presented each of the ambassadors who were present, with a ring of the value of one thousand five hundred scudi. Francesco thanked the Venetian senate in a private letter, and, in the most obliging expressions, promised the Republic all the obedience a son owes to his parent,

To the cardinal Ferdinando, the exaltation of Bianca, as an unexpected event, proved extremely irksome. He had not shewn any displeasure at his brother's marriage with her, whilst he entertained the opinion, that she was to be no more than his wife. But as the affair had taken a turn, quite contrary to his expectations, his resentment was roused, and not without cause. He dreaded some disagreeable catastrophe on the side of the foreign powers, the destruction of peace and harmony in the ducal family, and an infringement upon his own rights. She might yet bear his brother a son, to whom, in case Don Filippo were to die, he must leave the succession. This idea tormented him the more, as he saw himself quite destitute of the means of preventing a second imposition.

Of this enmity the Italian princes availed themselves to injure the grand-duke; the most virulent satires appeared against his wife, and mortifications poured in from every quarter. The only means of restoring his former consequence, was a speedy reconciliation with the cardinal. This Bianca took upon herself, and in it she so completely succeeded, that in token of perfect reconciliation, he repaired to Florence in the ensuing year, 1580, and staid with his brother at his villa until winter.

This reconciliation soon produced all the effects which were expected from it. The enemies of the grand-duke, who upon this had built their hopes of humbling him, were astonished to see the cardinal return from Florence, the friend both of Francesco and of Bianca. She gloried in the happy consequences of a reconciliation, which she considered as her own work, and was highly gratified with the appellation of a restorer of peace in his family,

mily, which the cardinal himself was pleased to bestow upon her.

She did every thing in her power to obtain his confidence, and strove to accomplish his most secret wishes; for she hoped, through this conduct, to gain the affections of the Florentines, who were extremely pleased with the unexpected concord of the two brothers.

But nothing could conquer the hatred which they had conceived against her. They could not bear the idea of seeing a person rule over them, whose private character was so obnoxious, and whom they looked upon as the chief cause of the dissensions which had prevailed between their sovereign and his late consort. They compared the liberality which he had shewn at her coronation, with his avarice towards the first princess and his brothers; and in every circumstance found sufficient matter for scandal and invective. She was fond of curious machinery; and partly perhaps from this cause was esteemed a witch.

But an additional cause of the implacable hatred, which the Florentines bore her, was the protection she gave to spies; a reproach she stands charged with in every historical record. She had always a number of these wretches in her pay, and is said, by that means, to have made some very important discoveries, of which, however, history gives us no farther particulars.

In this manner she actually secured herself and the grand-duke against all machinations; but, at the same time, lost the good opinion of the people. Nor did the good understanding between the court of Florence and the republic of Venice prove of long duration. Though they had hitherto, at least in appearance, shewn them-

selves true friends of the grand-duke, they thought, that since Bianca's coronation, their new son had given them frequent cause of discontent.

In 1512, several letters passed between the Republic and Bianca, who was offended at their intention of creating the intended wife of an inferior prince, daughter of the Republic likewise. This event, whilst it prevented the conclusion of the marriage, occasioned, at the same time, the publicity of a disaffection, which had for a long time existed.

About the same time, the good understanding which through Bianca had been established among the Medici, was again disturbed. Though the cardinal had conceived a sort of affection for her, in return for the important services she had rendered him, he could not forget, that through her artifice she had ascended the ducal throne ; and, on the death of Don Filippo in 1582, he thought himself authorized to adopt measures more serious, and save his family from impending ruin, by counteracting and anticipating the intrigues he feared from Bianca. His first care was to entreat his brother, Don Pietro, to marry. But this prince lived in perpetual dissention with his brothers, and could never be prevailed upon to acquiesce in the cardinal's wishes. His provocation was still greater, when, in the year 1583, the Grand-duke, contrary to the advice of the ablest statesmen, publicly declared Don Antonio his legitimate son. Francesco had given him in fee many of the estates, forfeited by the subdued rebels, and had added many more by purchase : at the same time, the king of Spain had conferred upon Antonio the title of Prince of Capestrano, and appointed him his legate in Italy.

From

From all these circumstances, Ferdinando suspected, that his brother and Bianca had formed the scheme of forwarding him to the succession of the government, with the support of Spain. This suspicion was still more confirmed when German guards were assigned to him, and many Florentines began to look upon him as the successor of the grand-duke, and actually paid him the honours due to the second person in the state. All these unpleasant innovations the cardinal attributed to Bianca, and not altogether without cause, which of course cast a damp upon his affection for her.

Bianca soon remarked the change in the cardinal's disposition; but, perfectly skilled in the art of dissimulation, never betrayed the least symptom of suspicion; and, on the contrary, endeavoured more than ever to oblige him, eagerly seizing upon every opportunity to give him the most convincing proofs of her attachment. This moderation on her side had so powerful an effect upon the cardinal, that he never could induce himself to come to an open rupture with her, particularly when at the highest pitch of his resentment, concerning Don Antonio, she conferred new obligations on his family, which challenged his gratitude, and for some time obliterated his distrust.

In the mean time, Bianca's skilful hand conducted all the delicate manœuvres of government with advantage and success, excepting when she interceded with her husband for the famous poet Tasso, whom he could not be persuaded, even at her instance, to forgive. But Ferdinando was unable long to suppress his distrust of Bianca, and often gave such evident marks of it, that her two favourites, Serguidi and Abbioso could not help taking notice of them. Whilst he kept upon good terms with her, they durst not show their animosity towards him,

but

but as soon as they perceived the coolness which had taken place, they threw off the mask, strove to create distrust in the grand-duke against the cardinal, and represented him as a man, whose sole aim it was to increase his own private power and consequence, and who, in political concerns, ought not to be relied on. Francesco, who at all times suspected his brother, eagerly listened to their insinuations, and gradually withdrew his love and confidence from him.

Not long before his departure from Florence, the report had been spread of the pregnancy of the grand-duchess. Never before had the cardinal's suspicions of the success of Bianca's intrigues been so strong as they were at this time; because, not only the grand-duke, but also many persons at court and in the capital, spoke of the matter with a degree of confidence. His concerns at Rome would not permit him to make a longer stay at Florence, for which reason he charged Don Pietro secretly to watch the motions of the grand-duchess.

This prince was just on the point of returning to Spain, but yielded to his brother's request, and postponed his journey; willing to discharge his commission with integrity and zeal, but deficient in the chief qualities requisite for a similar undertaking, he had neither the art to conceal his views, nor the temper of a cool observer. This latter defect led him astray upon every occasion; he saw nothing but fraud and deception wherever he cast his eyes, and thus lost sight of the chief object. The cardinal only suspected a stratagem, and had commissioned his brother to prevent its being carried into execution. Don Pietro took this supposition for matter of fact; hence he looked with a suspicious eye upon whatever Bianca did, and established his doubts

doubts upon such grounds as even the cardinal himself could not admit. He went so far as to imagine, that Bianca's daughter, the countess Bentivoglio, who, during the absence of her husband, had retired to the ducal palace, was to aid her mother in the execution of the scheme. At last, Bianca acquainted him herself, that she did not think it was so: and by compelling her to this declaration, Don Pietro fulfilled the intentions of the cardinal. In the following year the hopes of the grand-duke were entirely defeated; for Bianca's supposed pregnancy ended in an illness, which endangered her life.

During the dissensions, she had constantly evinced the most friendly sentiments for the cardinal; and endeavoured, by her own moderation, meekness, and complacency, to compensate for the inveteracy and obstinacy of her consort. For this reason the cardinal chose to bring on a reconciliation with his brother, and wrote to her on the subject, towards the end of 1586.

Bianca, indeed, strove with all earnestness to bring it about. She acquainted the grand duke with his brother's wish, and did it with a power of eloquence, that made the most successful impression upon his feelings. He requested her immediately to acquaint the cardinal with his sentiments; and, to convince him of his sincerity, remitted him a considerable sum of money, for which he had long since sued without effect. The only return on which he insisted, was, that he should pay him a visit at Florence.

In the beginning of 1587, Ferdinando received the intelligence of the successful issue of Bianca's negotiations. He approved, with unfeigned demonstrations of joy, all she had done, and sent a chamberlain to Florence

to thank her and the grand-duke, and inform them of his arrival the ensuing autumn.

The concerns of the two brothers now no longer met with the usual impediments ; they rose again to their former consequence, and the pope himself adopted a more condescending conduct towards the cardinal. This man, Sextus V. so thoroughly versed in the wiles of court intrigues, was highly pleased with Bianca's management in this affair, and called it a masterpiece in politics.

Ferdinando arrived at Florence, in the beginning of October. On the 13th, the grand-duke was taken ill ; at first, with an intermitting fever, which seemed to be of very little consequence ; but there soon appeared the most alarming symptoms of a mortal disorder.

Two days afterwards Bianca likewise fell ill of the same disorder, and her symptoms soon proved mortal. She was never apprised of the catastrophe of her consort. The cardinal, from a motive of tenderness, had given the strictest orders that she might not be informed of his death. But the uncommon bustle in the palace, and the dejection and sadness which were visible in every countenance, were sufficient to make her guess at what was concealed from her, and to increase her illness. Ferdinando visited her after his brother's demise, and comforted her. She was sensible of her impending dissolution, told the cardinal of it, thanked him affectionately for his kindness, and recommended Don Antonio and her family to his protection.

In this state he left her with the archbishop of Florence, the great Bentivoglio, and her daughter. She expired in her forty-fifth year, nineteen hours after her consort.

The new grand-duke had given positive orders, that the corpse of Bianca should be opened in the presence

of

of her son-in-law, her daughter, Don Antonio, and several physicians, who attested that, a few excepted, all the interior parts of her body were found in a state of decay, and that, in all probability, she died of a dropsy. Immediately after this inquest the body was conveyed to the church of St. Lorenzo, attended as before mentioned ; and, during the celebration of the mass, laid on the same funeral scaffold, which, two days previous, had been erected for her ducal consort. After the service was over, the corpse was carried into the vestry, till the new grand-duke had been consulted, if the body should be publicly exposed with the ducal crown. His answer was ; “ She has worn the crown long enough.” When farther asked in what manner she should be interred, he replied ; “ Proceed with her funeral as you please, but I will not suffer her to lie in our vault.”

A few days after her decease, her escutcheon was, by his order, taken off from all the public edifices, and replaced by the arms of Donna Joanna of Austria. Don Antonio was, by a special deed, declared an illegitimate child.

Bianca had bequeathed, by her will, to her daughter, the countess Bentivoglio, thirty thousand scudi ; and to Don Antonio, part of her jewels, and thirty thousand scudi. The remainder of her jewels were to go to her father, and five thousand scudi to her secretary. The grand-duke declared the will valid, and suffered its full execution.

Francesco's and Bianca's deaths succeeding each other so suddenly, gave rise to various reports, which soon gained credit with the multitude. Some said, that Bianca had attempted to poison the cardinal with a

tart, of which he declined to partake; but of which the grand-duke had eaten---and that when she saw this, she likewise partook of the poisoned meat, that she might join her consort in the grave, and thus avoid the punishment due to her crime. Others relate the same story with this difference, that they charge the cardinal with the atrocious deed, and go so far in exaggerating his refinement in cruelty, as to assert that he not only opposed by force all those, who, at the cries of the helpless victims, came to their assistance, but that he went into the apartment where they lay expiring, for the purpose of adding insult to their sufferings.

Her avowed enemies the Florentine writers, confess that a great share of the severity with which the cardinal treated her memory must be attributed to the calumnies of those, who, during her life, were her most intimate friends, and, after her demise, proved her most inveterate accusers. His subsequent conduct clearly evinced, that he had been prejudiced against her through false accusations; for he afterwards annulled several of his former resolutions. He solemnly re-adopted Don Antonio into his family, declared him his nephew, made an establishment for him as a young prince of the house of Medici, and at last procured him the grand priorship of the order of Malta. Upon Bianca's father he settled a considerable annuity, and all her officers received handsome presents. He probably discovered, that she, in many things, had been falsely accused, and hence resolved, as much as possible, to obliterate his past severity by acts of munificence.

We meet in history with many instances of women, who, from the lowest situations of life, have risen to a high degree of rank, fortune, and opulence, and who, supported by the inclination of weak princes, have married

ried them, and acquired all the rights of princesses. In this respect, they all bear a great resemblance. Yet among all these instances, that of Bianca is the most uncommon, if not the only one of the kind. For all those who exchanged the title of the mistress of the prince for that of his wife, were favoured either by the love of the people, by part of the family of the sovereign, or were free at least from public and glaring defects.

In the history of Bianca we see the reverse of all this. She was universally hated, had the whole family of Medici against her, stood, in the estimation of many, convicted, and, in that of a still greater number, suspected of the most heinous crimes : and the very prince whom she afterwards married, had, in the most unaccountable manner, been deceived by her. It is astonishing indeed, that a young lady who, till her twentieth year, had lived sequestered from the world, in the bosom of her own family, should, after her elopement from Venice, form the most intricate plans in a foreign country, exhibit the greatest skill in court intrigue, and place herself on the throne of its sovereign. It appears incomprehensible how she could execute such a scheme, by the mere assistance of the affections of such a prince, and in spite of the universal detestation of the people. In the most important events of her life, she had no other guide, no other aid, but her good sense ; and, in this point of view, she claims all our admiration. Inexhaustible in ways and measures, she generally succeeded in whatever she attempted.

Both in political and family negotiations, her discerning look, with one glance, distinguished the strong and weak sides of the persons concerned, and never failed to make the best use of their dispositions for

her own advantage. She would place her very enemies so as not only to frustrate their mischievous plans, but even to make them instrumental in the attainment of the purposes she had in view. Her eloquence was instructive, soft, and blandishing; she gained the good-will of every company in which she appeared: her very adversaries were compelled to admire her, at least, while she was present.

But on the side of her heart, she appears in a much less advantageous light. Her actions were seldom free from fraud, malice, and cruelty. These qualities she had gradually acquired through the embarrassments attending her first adventures.

As a private person, she appears to very little advantage, and we may consider her intercession with the grand-duke in behalf of her first husband, as the last struggle of expiring principle. As grand-duchess, her actions were influenced by her connection with the house of the Medici. They, however, often appear dubious, so that it is impossible to determine whether she was induced to them through political prudence, or a good disposition. The many chasms in the most important and interesting epoch of her history, render it very difficult, upon the whole, to exhibit a true picture of her character. Yet, from what is known of her, we are forced to lament that a woman endowed with qualities to shine forth among the best of her sex, should not have been placed in a situation, where she might have employed them for the happiness both of herself and others.

Her stature was somewhat above the middle size; perfect harmony prevailed in all her person. Her countenance bespoke meekness, tempered with a little cast of cunning, and happily blended with a gloss of cheerfulness,

ness, which animated every feature, and thus formed the most agreeable composition : her complection is said to have been extremely beautiful.

Life of, by Siebenkees.

CAPILLANA, (*a Peruvian Princess*), died about the
Middle of the sixteenth Century.

HAVING become a widow very young, she retired from court to a house she had in the country. Scarcely was she established there, when Pizarro appeared upon the coast. Having sent his people to reconnoitre the country, they penetrated to the palace of Capillana, who gave them all the succours they wanted ; and expressed a desire to see their general. Pizarro came, and an attachment soon took place between them. He knew all the advantages of such a conquest ; and profiting of his ascendancy on the heart of Capillana, persuaded her to embrace the Christian faith ; but the young princess was not easily convinced, and he left off the attempt ; yet afterwards applying herself to study the Spanish language, she became a convert. On the death of Pizarro, she retired again to her retreat, and sought consolation in the knowledge she had acquired. In the library of the Dominicans of Puna, a manuscript of her composition is preserved, in which is painted, by her hand, ancient Peruvian monuments—each accompanied with a short historical explanation in the Castilian language. There is also a representation of many of their plants, with curious dissertations on their merit and properties.

F. C.

CARAFFA, (ROBERTA) *Princess of Avellino, in the Kingdom of Naples, wife of Camillo Caraccioli, created Knight of the Order of the Golden Fleece, by Philip III. King of Spain.*

WITH an early taste for literature, this lady possessed great beauty, modesty, and wisdom. While her husband was engaged in war, she maintained peace and concord in his family, and among his vassals. She acquired great reputation by her eloquence and her learned writings, of which it does not appear that any have reached the present times.

F. C.

CARCAS, (*Widow of Balahac,*) *who had caused himself to be crowned King of Carcassone, and died at the siege of that City,*

WAS a woman of uncommon courage.—“ A representation of her,” says Mr. Gaillard, “ is still to be seen over the gate of the city, with this inscription: *Carcas sum* ; the corruption of which has undoubtedly given name to the place. She undertook to avenge her husband’s death ; and sustained the siege with so much bravery, that Charlemagne left her in possession of the sovereignty and jurisdiction of the city. Afterwards the Saracens came, and insulted the Countess of Carcassone under her own walls ; jesting at the idea of a female warrior, and recommending her to spin rather than to fight. Arming herself therefore with a lance, to which she affixed, as to a distaff, a quantity of hemp, leaving only the point bare ; she set fire to it, and rushed into the midst of the enemy, whom she filled with terror,
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and put to flight. Her shield and victorious lance are yet shewn at Carcassone: the government of which, joined to her personal glory, induced the handsomest and bravest knights of the time to solicit her hand, which she bestowed on a young Frenchman, of the name of Roger.

Madame Genlis.

CARMENTA, or NICOSTRATA ; *an ancient Poetess of Latium ; flourished before the Foundation of Rome, in which afterwards divine Honours were paid her.*

It is supposed to be from her name that verses were named Carmina by the Latins. She was skilful also in the Greek language—of a quick and lively wit, and conversant in divers kinds of learning.

F. C. &c.

CARO, (ANNE) *a Spanish Lady, who wrote some ingenious Comedies.*

CAROLINA, (WILHELMINA DOROTHEA)
Daughter of John Frederick, Marquis of Brandenburg-Anspach. Born 1682-3, married to George II. at Hanover, 1705. Died 1737, aged 56.

WAS so much admired for her beauty and fine endowments throughout the empire, that she was solicited to marry Charles III. king of Spain, afterwards emperor of Germany. To bring about this match, she was persuaded to change her religion, but to no purpose ; and this was the chief motive which induced the elector of Hanover,

Hanover, (George I.) to chuse her for the wife of his son, the electoral prince, a match which occasioned universal joy among all the protestants, not only of the empire, but of Europe.

She was crowned with her husband, in 1727 ; and had great political influence in this kingdom ; governing his mind by an entire submission to his will, and prompt attention to his comfort or wishes, even at the expence of her own health.—The character given of this princess by the baron de Pollnitz, in the second volume of his memoirs, is as follows :

“ The queen is a princess, in whom every thing that challenges respect, at the same time commands affection. Her presence is majestic, but accompanied with modesty and good nature ; her behaviour courteous, and her wit both solid and sparkling. She always looked upon trifling amusements with disdain, and never affected ornament in dress. The reading of choice authors was always one of her greatest pleasures ; and she might be said to be one of the most learned princesses in Europe. Having lost her father when very young, and her mother, the princess of Saxe-Eysnach, marrying again to George IV. elector of Saxony, she was left under the guardianship of Frederick, elector of Brandenburg, afterwards king of Prussia, by which means she spent part of her early days at the court of Berlin, where the electress, sister to the late king, George I. gave her a tincture of her own politeness and noble sentiments. Not many years after her marriage, she saw her father-in-law and her husband called to the possession of one of the chief thrones in the world. I was then at Hanover, and will venture to assure you, that the whole electoral family heard of this new addition to their greatness, with a moderation that rendered them worthy of their fortune:

tune ; and the princess in particular demonstrated, that she was thoroughly satisfied in her mind, and could be happy without a crown. When she became princess of Wales, she was so prudent as to keep fair with both the parties, which then divided the royal family. George I. her father-in-law, had a sincere esteem for her ; she in return paid him very great respect ; and when she became queen, contributed all in her power to make her subjects happy. The king let her into a share of affairs, and left her regent of the kingdom in his absence."

To a large compass of knowledge, and great reach of thought, she joined a polite address, the most easy and elegant manner of adducing the sentiments of others, or conveying her own : she not only studied books, but the nature and reason of things ; and was a great proficient in the science, or wisdom of life, both public and private, knowing how to subdue her own passions, and guide those of others.

Female Worthies, &c.

CARRIERA, (ROSALBA) *a Venetian Painter in Crayons and Miniature. Died at Venice, 1757, or 1761, aged 85.*

FROM her residence in France, is ranked with the painters of that kingdom. She is thus mentioned in the *Letters on the French Nation*. Rosalba, " At present better known than any of the preceding. What pity that her pieces should not be everlasting ! The finest piece in Crayons, that ever issued from mortal hands, is the Venus in M. Pompadour's collection. The piece she drew for her reception into the French academy, in 1720, was a woman holding a crown of laurels, most elegantly

elegantly done. Rosalba being attached to crayons and miniatures, carried them to so high a degree of merit, that she has seldom been equalled, never surpassed—extreme correctness, and most profound knowledge of design, not being so absolutely essential in those kinds as in history; she attained the end she proposed by the beauty of her colours, the purity and freshness of the tones, and the harmonious delicacy of her touch. The grace as well as the largeness of her manner equals that of the greatest masters." She was born at Venice in 1678, and learnt design of the Chevalier Diamantini, whom she soon surpassed, and acquired so great a reputation, that all the academies in Europe were eager to admit her as one of their members. She was passionately fond of music; played in a superior style on the harpsichord, and travelled into France and Germany. She is said also to have had a genius for poetry. Her merit procured her riches. She chiefly painted portraits, and spent the last twenty years of her life in her native country.

Abec. Pitt. Madame Genlis, &c.

CASALINA, (LUCIA) *a Female Painter, of Bologna.*
Born 1677.

Who studied under Gioseffo dal Sole, and married Felix Touselli, a painter of the same school, where her works were exhibited.

Abec. Pitt.

CASTRO, (ANNE DE) *a Spanish Lady.*

AUTHOR of many ingenious works; amongst others, one entitled *Eternidad del Rei Felipe III.* printed at Madrid,

Madrid, 1629. The famous Lope de Vega has celebrated this lady in his writings.

F. C.

CATELANS, (MADAME) *a learned French Lady, of a good Family, at Narbonne. Born 1662. Died at Toulouse, where she had been Crowned several Times for her poetical Talents, in 1745.*

CATHERINE, (*canonized*) *a Virgin and Martyr of Alexandria, in the Persecution under Maximin, illustrious for her Learning, Eloquence, and Piety.*

THERE are two other Catherines distinguished by the same qualities : one of Sienna, who died in 1380 ; and the other of Bologna, died 1463, who wrote many religious works in Latin and Italian.

F. C.

CATHERINE of ARRAGON, (*Queen of England*), *youngest Daughter of Ferdinand and Isabella, King and Queen of Spain. Married, in the eighteenth Year of her Age, 1501, to Arthur, Prince of Wales, eldest Son of Henry VII. with whom she lived only four Months and nineteen Days. Soon after his Decease, she was contracted to Henry, Prince of Wales, afterwards King Henry VIII. Brother of her deceased Husband, then scarce twelve Years of Age. Died 1535-6, aged 52.*

NOTWITHSTANDING the contract, that prince, at fourteen years of age, made a public protestation against it ; yet, being overcome by the advice of his council, he was married to her immediately after his accession to
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the throne, and both of them were crowned by Dr. Warham, then archbishop of Canterbury, July 5, 1505. Her beauty, sweet disposition, and other excellent qualifications, kept her almost for twenty years in the king's good graces. She was not only learned herself, but also a patroness of learned men; more particularly of Ludovicus Vives, and the celebrated Erasmus.

But though the king never discovered, during all this time, the least disaffection to her; yet not having a son to succeed him, and the affronts offered to his daughter Mary by the courts of France and Spain, by declining an alliance on pretence of her illegitimacy, might make an impression on his mind; and, some scruples of conscience on a marriage which had been partly approved, partly condemned, by his father and counsellors, but more, perhaps, his becoming enamoured with the charms of Anne Boleyn, made him resolve to be divorced from his queen. When the cause was brought into court, she threw herself on her knees before him, appealing to him for the affection, faithfulness, and obedience of her conduct, during their union: beseeching him to protect her, a powerless and injured stranger, who had been the wife of his brother only by title, from the malice of her enemies: then, rising, she left the court, before which she would never again consent to appear. She accused cardinal Wolsey, as the author of her calamities, because she could not always tolerate his vices, and her nephew, the emperor, had disappointed his views of the papacy.

The affair of the divorce being determined; without submitting to a sentence not sanctioned by the pope, or renouncing her pretensions, she retired to Kimbolton castle, in Huntingdonshire; where she led a life of constant

stant devotion and remarkable austerity, for the space of three years, when she fell dangerously ill, about the latter end of December, 1535. Six days after which, being very weak, she dictated the following letter to the king :

“ My king and dearest spouse,

“ Insomuch as already the hour of my death approacheth, the love and affection I bear you, causeth me to conjure you to have a care of the eternal salvation of your soul, which you ought to prefer before mortal things, or all worldly blessings. It is for this immortal spirit you must neglect the care of your body, for the love of which you have thrown me headlong into many calamities, and your ownself into infinite disturbances. But I forgive you with all my heart, humbly beseeching Almighty God, he will in heaven confirm the pardon I on earth give you. I recommend unto you our most dear Mary, your daughter and mine, praying you to be a better father to her than you have been a husband to me : remember also three poor maids, companions of my retirement, as likewise all the rest of my servants, giving them a whole year's wages besides what is due, that so they may be a little recompensed for the good service they have done me ; protesting unto you, in the conclusion of this my letter and life, that my eyes love you, and desire to see you more than any thing mortal.”

This letter drew tears from the king. In a few days after, she died at Kimbolton. In her will, she appointed her interment to be private, in a convent of Observant friars, who had done and suffered much for her : the king complied with her request in regard to her servants ; but would not permit her remains to be buried as she desired, perhaps more to show his resentment to
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that religious order, who had been against him in the affair of the divorce, than in opposition to her will. He ordered her to be interred in the abbey church of Peterborough, with all the pomp and ceremony due to her high birth. And, in respect to her remains, though there was a dissolution of all the religious houses in 1543, he not only spared that abbey-church, but advanced it to the dignity of a cathedral.

Female Worthies.

CATHERINE I. (*Empress of Russia*),

WAS the natural daughter of a country girl, and was born at Ringen, a small village upon the lake Virtcherve, near Dorpt, in Livonia. The year of her birth is uncertain ; but, according to her own account, it was on the fifth of April, 1687. Her original name was Martha, which she changed for Catherine, when she embraced the Greek religion. Count Rosen, a lieutenant-colonel in the Swedish service, who owned the village of Ringen, supported, according to the custom of the country, both the mother and the child ; and was for that reason, supposed by many persons to have been her father. She lost her mother when but three years old ; and as he died about the same time, she was left in so destitute a situation, that the parish-clerk received her into his house. Soon afterwards, Gluck, a Lutheran minister of Marienburgh, happening, in a journey through these parts, to see the foundling ; either to relieve the poor clerk from a burthen he could not well support, or from a particular prepossession in favour of the little orphan, took her under his protection, brought her up in his family, and employed her in attending his children.

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In 1701, and about the fourteenth year of her age, she espoused a dragoon, of the Swedish garrison of Marienburgh. Many different accounts are given of this transaction: one author of great credit affirms, that the bride and bridegroom remained together eight days after their marriage; another, of no less authority, asserts, on the contrary, that the morning of their nuptials, her husband was sent with a detachment for Riga. Thus much is certain, that the dragoon was absent when Marienburgh surrendered to the Russians, and that Catherine never saw him more.

General Bauer, upon the taking of the place, saw Catherine among the prisoners; and being smitten with her youth and beauty, took her to his house, where she superintended his domestic affairs, as a sort of house-keeper. Soon after she was removed, still acting in the same capacity, into the family of prince Menzikoff, who was no less struck with the attractions of the fair captive: with him she lived until 1704, when, in the seventeenth year of her age, she became the servant, or as some say, the mistress of Peter the Great, and won so much upon his affections, that he espoused her on the 29th of May, 1711. The ceremony was secretly performed at Jawerof, in Poland, in the presence of general Bruce; and, on the 20th of February, 1712, it was publicly solemnized with great pomp at Petersburg.

Catherine, by the most unwearied assiduity and unre-mitted attention, by the softness and complacency of her disposition, but, above all, by an extraordinary liveliness and gaiety of temper, acquired a wonderful ascendancy over the mind of Peter. The latter was subject to occasional horrors, which at times rendered him gloomy and suspicious, and raised his passions to such a height, as

to produce a temporary madness. In these dreadful moments, she was the only person who durst venture to approach him; and such was the kind of fascination she had acquired over his senses, that her presence had an instantaneous effect, and the first sound of her voice composed his mind and calmed his agonies. From these circumstances, she seemed necessary, not only to his comfort, but even to his existence: she became his inseparable companion in his journeys into foreign countries, and even in all his military expeditions.

Peter, in his campaign of 1711, against the Turks, having imprudently led his troops into a disadvantageous situation, where they were not only desitute of forage and provisions, but even of the means of quenching their thirst, the grand vizier determined to reduce the czar and his exhausted army by famine. In this desperate extremity, when the loss of his army seemed the least evil that could befall him, the czar, on the approach of night, retired to his tent in violent agitation of mind; giving positive orders, that no person whatever, upon pain of death, should be admitted to disturb his privacy, to behold his exquisite distress, or shake a resolution he had formed of attempting, next morning, to force his way through the enemy with fixed bayonets. Catherine, boldly exposing her person to every danger, thought proper to break through these orders. She ventured for once to disobey, but it was to save him and his whole camp from death or slavery. Entering the melancholy abode of her husband, and throwing herself at his feet, she entreated the czar to permit her to offer, in his name, proposals of peace to the grand vizier. Peter, after some hesitation, consented, signed the letter she presented to him, which Shafirof, the chancellor, and the generals, had before concerted, and the peace of

Pruth

Pruth was concluded upon. This action gained Catherine great popularity, and the emperor particularly specified it as one of the reasons which induced him to crown her publicly at Moscow with his own hand. This ceremony was performed in 1724, and although designed by Peter only as a proof of his affection, was the principal cause of her subsequent elevation.

Towards the latter end of 1714, the czar instituted the new order of St. Catherine, in her honour, and to perpetuate the memory of her love to him on the banks of the river Pruth. He invested her with full power to bestow it on such of her own sex as she should think proper. The ensigns of this order are, a broad white ribband worn over the right shoulder, with a medal of St. Catherine adorned with precious stones, and the motto—"Out of love and fidelity."

She had one son by the emperor, who was to have succeeded him, but died young. Catherine's influence, however, was not shaken by this event. The most noble part of her character was her peculiar humanity and compassion for the unfortunate. Motraye has paid a handsome tribute to this excellence. "She had, in some sort, the government of all his (Peter's) passions, and even saved the lives of a great many more persons than Le Fort was able to do: she inspired him with that humanity, which, in the opinion of his subjects, nature seemed to have denied him. A word from her mouth, in favour of a wretch just going to be sacrificed to his anger, would disarm him; but if he was fully resolved to satisfy that passion, he would give orders for the execution when she was absent, for fear she should plead for the victim." In a word, to use the expression of the celebrated Munich, *She was truly the mediatrix between the monarch and his subjects.*

A coolness, however, is said to have happened between them a little before his death, occasioned by the emperor's suspicions, on conviction, of a secret connection between Catherine and her first chamberlain, whose name was Mons. The emperor, who was suspicious of this, by a feigned absence surprized her in an arbour in the garden with him, whose sister, first lady of the bed-chamber, in company with a page, stood on the outside. Peter was so enraged, that he is reported to have struck Catherine with his cane, and Mons, with his sister, &c. were taken into custody. They were accused of having received bribes, and making their influence over the empress subservient to their own mercenary views. Mons being threatened with the torture, confessed the corruption laid to his charge, and was beheaded. His sister received five strokes of the knout, and was banished into Siberia, from whence the empress afterwards recalled her. On the day after the execution of the former sentence, Peter conveyed Catherine in an open carriage under the gallows, to which was nailed the head of Mons. The empress, without changing colour, exclaimed—"What a pity it is there is so much corruption among courtiers!"

This event happened in the latter end of the year 1724. Peter's last sickness came on soon after; and while he was laying in the agonies of death, several opposite parties were caballing to dispose of the crown. At a considerable meeting of many among the principal nobility, it was secretly determined, on the moment of his dissolution, to arrest Catherine, and place Peter Alexievitch, his grandson, on the throne. Bassevitz, apprized of this resolution, repaired in person to the empress, although it was already night. "My grief and consternation," replied Catherine, "render me incapable

ble of acting myself: do you and prince Menzikof consult together, and I will embrace the measures which you shall approve in my name." Bassevitz, finding Menzikof asleep, awakened and informed him of the pressing danger which threatened the empress and her party. As no time remained for long deliberation, the prince instantly seized the treasure, secured the fortress, gained the officers of the guards by bribes and promises, also a few of the nobility, and principal clergy. These partizans being convened in the palace, Catherine made her appearance. She claimed the throne in right of her coronation at Moscow: she exposed the ill effects of a minority; and promised, that "so far from depriving the grand-duke of the crown, she would receive it only as a sacred deposit, to be restored to him, when she should be united, in another world, to an adored husband, whom she was now upon the point of losing." The pathetic manner in which she uttered this address, and the tears which accompanied it, added to the previous distribution of money, produced the desired effect, and the remainder of the night was employed in making the necessary preparations to ensure her succession in case of the emperor's death.

Peter at length expired in the morning of the 28th of January, O. S. 1725. This event being made known, the senate, the generals, the principal nobility and clergy, hastened to the palace to proclaim the new sovereign. The adherents of the great-duke seemed secure of success, and the friends of Catherine were avoided as persons doomed to destruction. At this juncture, Bassevitz whispered one of the opposite party, "The empress is mistress of the treasures and the fortress; she has gained over the guards and the synod, and many of the chief nobility, and even here she has more followers

than you imagine; advise, therefore, your friends to make no opposition, as they value their heads." This information being rapidly circulated, Bassevitz gave the appointed signal, and the two regiments of guards, who had been gained by a largess to declare for Catherine, and had already surrounded the palace, beat to arms. "Who has dared," exclaimed Prince Repnin, the commander in chief, "to order out the troops without my knowledge?"—"I," returned general Buterlin, "without pretending to dispute your authority, in obedience to the commands of my most gracious mistress." This short reply was followed by a dead silence. In this moment of suspense and anxiety, Menzikof entered, preceding Catherine, who came supported by the duke of Holstein. She attempted to speak, but was at first prevented by sighs and tears from giving utterance to her words; but at length recovering herself, said, that in obedience to the will of her husband, she was ready to devote her days to the painful occupations of government. She desired them to deliberate maturely on this important subject, and promised to adopt whatever was the result of their decisions.

In fine, Catherine was unanimously declared empress of all the Russias. About eight o'clock in the morning they were introduced to the empress by prince Menzikof (the first instrument of her elevation, and to whose advice she afterwards paid great deference), when they presented the act of their submission in writing, and took the usual oaths of fidelity. She received them very graciously, and assured them she would be a mother to her country, as the emperor had been its father. The general grief which appeared amongst all ranks and degrees of people is not to be expressed; even the soldiers were dissolved in tears, and would not be comforted till they
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were informed that the empress Catherine was proclaimed their sovereign; which they no sooner heard, than they flocked in crowds to the palace to take the accustomed oaths, crying out as they went, “ If our father is dead, our mother still lives!”

Her first care was to pay the last duties to her husband's ashes, with a pomp becoming the greatest monarch that Russia had ever known; and though there is no court in Europe where splendour and magnificence is carried to a greater height, on these occasions, than in that of Russia, it may with great truth be said, that she even surpassed herself in the funeral honours paid to her great Peter. She purchased the most precious kinds of marble, and employed some of the ablest sculptors of Italy to erect a mausoleum to this hero, which might, if possible, transmit the remembrance of his great actions to the most distant ages.

Catherine reigned two years and three months, in a manner which became the wife of so great a man; took all proper steps to secure the quiet of her dominions, to find out the revenues of the clergy, and to settle the succession. She established the academy of sciences at Petersburg, increased her marine, and carried on the project of discovering the north-east passage to China*. A cancer and dropsy accelerated her death, and she expired on the 17th of May, 1727, in about the 40th year of her age.

She was, in her person, under the middle size, and in her youth delicate and well formed, but inclined to cor-

* Before she came to the throne, the women were in a state of bondage, but she undertook to introduce mixed assemblies, as in other states of Europe, and by this policy made the first step towards polishing the manners of her uncultivated people.

pulency as she advanced in years. She had a fair complexion, dark eyes, and light hair, which she was always accustomed to dye with a black colour. Colonel Bruce affirms, that the clerk of Ringen taught her to read, but others say, she could neither read nor write. Her daughter Elizabeth usually signed her name for her, and particularly to her last will and testament, and count Osterman generally put her signature to the public decrees and dispatches. Gordon, who had frequently seen her, says, "She was a very pretty well-looking woman, of good sense, but not of that sublimity of wit, or rather that quickness of imagination, which some people have believed. The great reason why the czar was so fond of her, was her exceeding good temper; she never was seen peevish or out of humour; obliging and civil to all, and never forgetful of her former condition; withal, mighty grateful." Catharine maintained the pomp of majesty with an air of ease and grandeur united, and Peter used frequently to express his admiration at the propriety with which she supported her high station, without forgetting she was not born to that dignity.

She reigned little more than two years alone. She had several daughters by the czar, the youngest of whom, Elizabeth, after the heirs of the elder branches were extinct, ascended the throne in December, 1741.

Voltaire, in his history of the czar Peter, speaks of her in the following terms. "The lenity of this princess, (says he) has been carried to a degree unparal-
lelled in the history of any nation. She had promised, that during her reign nobody should be put to death, and she has kept her word. She is the first sovereign that ever shewed this regard to the human species, malefactors are now condemned to serve in the mines, and other public works;

works; a regulation not less prudent than humane, since it renders their punishment of some advantage to the state.

Coxe's Travel's into Russia, &c. Russel's Modern Europe. Universal History. Biographical Dictionary. Memoirs of Peter Henry Bruce, Esq. Ann. Reg.

CATHARINE II. (*Empress of Russia*),

DAUGHTER of Christian Augustus, prince of Anhalt-Zerbst, and born at Stettin, in the king of Prussia's dominions, May 2, 1729. Her name, at that time, was Sophia Augusta Frederica. A lady of quality, who frequently saw her, describes her in the following manner. " Her deportment, at that time, was remarkably good; she grew uncommonly handsome, and was a great 'girl for her years. Her countenance, without being beautiful, was very agreeable: to which the peculiar gaiety and friendliness which she ever displayed gave additional charms. Her education was conducted by her mother alone, who kept her strictly, and never suffered her to shew the least symptom of pride, to which she had some propensity; accustoming her, from her earliest infancy, to salute the ladies of distinction who came to visit the princess, with the marks of respect that became a child."

She lived till her fifteenth year alternately in Stettin, and in Dornburg or Zerbst, always accompanying her mother on little journies to Berlin, and different places in Germany, which contributed much to form her mind and manners. She was early addicted to reading and employment. At Brunswick, in 1743, she was duly instructed in the doctrines of the Lutheran religion, by
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the court preacher Dovè, who at that time little thought his illustrious disciple would so suddenly afterwards adopt the faith of another church.

Elizabeth, empress of Russia, proposed to the king of Prussia a marriage between his sister and her nephew, the young duke of Holstein, whom she had adopted. But Frederick was not fond of the changes of religion required in Russia on such occasions, and declined the offer, but pointed out the princess Sophia of Zerbst, as a relation of the grand-duke (their grandfathers were brothers), and this proposal met with the empress's full approbation.

The princess of Zerbst accordingly repaired to Petersburg, where she was cordially received. Her daughter, who was handsome, and endowed with all the graces of youth, immediately made a forcible impression on the heart of the young grand-duke; and as he himself was at that time good-looking and well made, the attachment became reciprocal.

But while magnificent preparations were making for their nuptials, the grand-duke was attacked with a violent fever, and a small-pox of a very malignant nature soon made its appearance. The prince did not fall under the violence of this disease, but the metamorphosis was terrible. He not only lost the comeliness of his face, but it became for a time distorted and almost hideous.

Notwithstanding the precaution of her mother, who had forewarned her of the change, Catharine could not revisit the grand duke without feeling secret horror; she was artful enough, however, to repress her emotion, and running to meet him, fell upon his neck and embraced him. But no sooner retired to her apartment, than she fell into a swoon, and it was three hours before she recovered the use of her senses.

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The nuptials were soon after solemnized, and they lived some time in an apparently good understanding, which Catharine compelled herself to support as long as she conceived it necessary, though more and more dissatisfied with her husband. Peter had sense, but his education had been totally neglected. He possessed an excellent heart, but he wanted politeness, and was become very ugly. He frequently blushed at the superiority of his wife, and his wife as often at seeing him so little worthy of her. Hence arose that mutual dislike which soon became but too visible, and which was daily increasing.

The principal families had beheld Peter with jealousy from the instant of his arrival, as a man who would share with them the power they had now long enjoyed, or perhaps entirely deprive them of it. Among those who strove most to injure him, was the great chancellor Bestucheff. His foresight was too great to allow him to flatter himself with the expectation of seeing Peter completely disinherited, but he hoped at least to banish him to the camps and armies, and to place Catharine at the head of affairs.

Soon after his marriage, his aunt had made Peter a present of Oranienbaum, a country palace; and, as soon as the fair weather permitted him to leave Petersburg, where he lived more like a state prisoner than the heir of a throne, thither he used to retire, amuse himself with the practice of the Prussian military exercise, and give way to habits which his enemies had first been the occasion of practising, by persuading him, that it was in drinking, smoking, and gaming, that the Prussian officers spent their leisure hours.

Catharine, all this time, was pursuing a conduct totally different. She was employed solely in gaining
partizans

partizans from among the most powerful persons of the court; yet her mother failed herself in the circumspection she advised, and being too busy in state matters, was ordered by the empress to leave the kingdom.

Catharine could not, without great regret, see her mother depart; but the hope of the throne, which fortified her against other misfortunes, supported her under this, and a connection she soon formed drove it effectually from her mind.

A handsome and tolerably well-accomplished young man, named Soltikoff, found means at Oranienbaum to withdraw her fidelity from the grand duke. He was chamberlain to Peter, and not in the least suspected by him; but others saw clearer, and secretly found means to accuse him to the empress, who threatened him with Siberia. With the indignant air of innocence, he complained to the grand duke of the slander, appealed to him, and begged leave to retire to Moscow. The credulous prince believed him, undertook his defence, and obtained his pardon, while the affair occasioned a temporary return of kindness between Peter and Catharine, but Soltikoff still continued in favour, and the chancellor paid him great court, secretly persuading him to remove every respectable character from his master, and supply their places with vile and obscure persons. As soon as he had done this, Bestucheff complained of him to the empress, who sent him to Stockholm to notify to the king the birth of Paul Petrovitch, of whom the grand duchess had just been delivered, Oct. 1, 1754.

On his return, he was stopped, and desired to reside at Hamburgh. The grand duchess would have solicited his return, but the chancellor told her the consequences, and ambition silenced love. She, however, wrote to him, and frequently received answers; when all at once,

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the arrival of the young count Stanislaus Poniatofsky, whom she afterwards raised to the throne of Poland and again hurled from it, banished all remembrance of Soltikoff; but Elizabeth was quickly informed of this intrigue, and gave orders to Poniatofsky to leave Russia without delay, which he obeyed; but Bestucheff, studying to render himself agreeable to Catharine, colleague with the Polish minister, Poniatofsky was sent back as minister plenipotentiary, and he contrived also to gain the favour of the grand duke.

Forgetful of the lessons of prudence taught her by her mother, but which she afterwards took as rules for her conduct, Catharine betrayed a faint imitation of the irregularities of her aunt the empress, and public report began to be very loud in her prejudice.

The grand duke alone knew nothing of what was passing, till Bestucheff fell into disgrace, when his enemies called his attention to the conduct of Catharine and Poniatofsky.

Peter was overwhelmed with grief and consternation, and no longer observed the respect he had hitherto shewn the grand duchess. He forbade her to be seen with Poniatofsky, and then hastened to the empress, and besought her to revenge the affront he had received; telling her, that the chancellor had not only favoured their misconduct, but repeatedly betrayed her confidence. Bestucheff was arrested on the spot. At once deprived of his place, tried, pronounced guilty of treason, and sentenced to death; but the empress contented herself with banishing him to an estate at a considerable distance from Moscow.

Catharine now, abandoned on all sides, resolved to try what her eloquence would do with the empress once more, and demanded an audience, which Elizabeth refused.

fused. She applied to the French ambassador, but he declined interfering. Still, however, the young Pole did not quit Russia.

The grand duke, about this time, forming an attachment with the sister of the beautiful and spirited princess Dashkoff, who afterwards made such a distinguished figure, fell into some disgrace with Elizabeth, whose health visibly declined. Catharine thought this a favourable opportunity. She threw herself at her feet, and implored forgiveness; but she would listen to no accommodation, except on the most mortifying conditions. It was afterwards proposed to her, by message, to confess her guilt, and submit to the clemency of her husband and the empress.

From this moment Catherine summoned up all her pride: she purposely avoided appearing at court, kept close to her apartments, and asked leave of the empress to retire into Germany; a permission which she was very sure of being refused: the extreme fondness of Elizabeth for the young Paul Petrovitch would never let her consent to the departure of a child's mother, which would thereby be exposed to the hazard of being hereafter declared illegitimate. The stratagem succeeded; an accommodation shortly after ensued, and, to the great astonishment of the court, she made her appearance at the theatre, by the side of the empress, who paid her much attention.

In the mean time, the cabal, formed by Bestucheff, continued to blacken Peter in the eyes of his aunt, so that she began to think of leaving the empire to her favourite grand nephew; but whatever were her designs, the execution was prevented by death. While her end was rapidly approaching, the court divided into two powerful parties; one consisted of the remains
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of the friends of Bestucheff, with count Ivan Schuvaloff at their head ; which the grand duchess secretly seconded with all her power. Animated by the two-fold motive of ambition and fear.

The other party was headed by the senator Vorontzoff, brother of the new grand chancellor, and father of the emperor's mistress. Guided by him, Peter resolved to assemble the troops at the instant the empress should close her eyes, cause himself to be proclaimed emperor, repudiate the grand duchess, declare her son illegitimate, and publicly marry his daughter. All things seemed to favour the success of this enterprize ; but while perpetual intrigues and agitations filled the court of the dying monarch, count Panin, who afterwards filled, for many years, the place of prime minister, undertook to reconcile all their opinions. He devoted himself entirely to Catherine ; but saw the dangers with which she was surrounded, and accordingly resolved to bring about a revolution, that Peter might ascend the throne ; but that the power might be secured to his wife and son. He persuaded the heads of Catharine's party, that they were too daring ; and Peter Schuvaloff, in his turn, who was ill, saw the grand duke, and told him the ideas entertained of his future conduct ; assuring him, if he repudiated the grand-duchess and married Romanovna, he would dishonour his memory for ever. The grand duke, in an indecisive manner, denied that he intended this, and promised to forget all the machinations formed against him.

The empress had been so prejudiced against Peter, that she was alarmed with the idea that he might poison her, and had denied him and the grand duchess admission into her apartment ever since her illness. This, among

among such credulous people, would have been a very suspicious affair, had she died without seeing them; Panin therefore prevailed on the confessor of Elizabeth, to urge her to forgive, in the hope of being forgiven. She consented, the grand duke and duchess entered, and received a blessing pronounced with carelessness and languor.

Elizabeth died on Christmas-day, 1761, and the grand-duke ascended the throne without the least mark of discontent or ill-will. He was thought too fond of the Germans; but to the astonishment of those who knew him only by his vices, his first measures were popular and auspicious: to Catherine, he seemed to forget the wrongs he had received, passed a great part of the day in her apartments, discoursed with her on the most friendly footing, and consulted her on all delicate and important affairs. He enfranchised the nobles, and put an end to a cruel form of law, which oppressed the people: but he soon began to sink into intoxication and all his old habits. What prevented him most from gaining the confidence of the people, was their firm persuasion that he preferred the Lutheran to the Greek religion. He took the treasures of the church into his own hands, put the clergy on yearly salaries, and did many things obnoxious to the religious prejudices of the Russians, such as taking down the figures of the saints, &c.: and, at the same time, by a number of unpopular acts, got out of favour with the army.

His behaviour to his wife was equally inconsistent; at the very moment when he was doing homage to the superiority of her mind, he would let slip some plain insinuations of the indignation his wrongs had inspired. He began to treat her, on every occasion, with marked
insult

insult and unkindness ; and, while he created himself new enemies, by the most unpopular and foolish excesses, the empress acted a very different part, and conciliated the good-will of the public, while she attached to herself men of talents and courage.

When her dissimulation and her judgment thus rendered her more powerful, the czar began seriously to think of divorcing her, declaring the illegitimacy of her son, and raising his mistress to the throne. Acquainted with the intentions of her husband, Catherine was more than doubly careful in her outward conduct, and kept a new lover, Orloff, so much in the back ground, that her most intimate friends suspected not the attachment, though he was one of the conspirators against Peter, whose downfall alone, the indignities he had heaped upon the empress, and the measures he was now pursuing, it was plain, could ensure her safety.

The young princess Dashkoff, sister of the emperor's mistress, was one of the fast friends of Catherine. Bold and intriguing, the latter contrived to make her talents useful. She herself kept in the back ground, while her several agents were busy in detaching from Peter any friend who yet remained, or any who had power to injure him, and might be influenced by venal or ambitious motives. Her arrest was to take place in two days ; her adherents were many, and the plot liable to be betrayed by some one, in which she had every thing to fear. Some of them wished her to be regent only during the minority of her son, who was to be declared emperor ; but Catherine persisted in claiming the imperial dignity ; and July 9th, 1762, entered Petersburg with Orloff and a few soldiers, the number of which were soon augmented, by whom she was proclaimed Czarina ; amidst the acclamations of all

the people, and the imperial crown was placed upon her head, by the bishop of Novogorod. Every thing was favourable; no blood had been shed, and the czar was leaving his country house for Petershoff, whence he found the empress had escaped, before he was informed of the insurrection. Appalled and irresolute, he neglected the advice of the brave count Munich for that of his mistress, his courtiers, and his own imbecility, and returned to Oranienbaum, when boldness only could have saved him.

He wrote to the empress, who was on her march towards him; she returned no answer, but proceeded forward. Neglecting any measures of security, he ordered the place to be dismantled, as a sign of submission, and wrote a second letter, in the most humiliating terms, offering to resign the empire, if she would permit him to retire to Holstein; no answer was returned; but he was counselled to show his submission by proceeding forward to meet the empress. He went; and, after suffering a thousand indignities from her adherents, he wrote a formal renunciation of the empire, declaring his own incapacity, flattering himself with the idea that she would permit him to retire to Holstein, though during his captivity he was denied the solace of a violin and a few books. When, at the end of a week, it was thought unsafe, from the movements of compassion and remorse among the soldiers, to spare him longer, Alexis Orloff, brother of the favourite, with another officer, went to dine with the czar, to whom they contrived to administer a glass of poison; and, on his discovery of it and rejection of a second, pushed away a servant who had come into the room to succour him, and, after some struggles, strangled the unfortunate prince.

When Catherine was publicly informed of his death, she

she shed tears, retired, and secluded herself for several days. Recalling those whom Peter had banished ; making her arrangements with foreign powers, and settling the internal affairs of the empire, formed her first cares. She had many mortifications to endure, in the coldness in which she was received at Moscow, and in the cabals of the priests, whom she had promised but neglected to reinstate in the privileges Peter had taken from them, and who began to prepare the minds of the people for a counter revolution. But prompt severity and decisive measures, uninterrupted by the scruples of pity or gratitude, not only put an end to these movements, but rid her of some troublesome friends, whose services she wished to have been forgotten. Amongst others, of the princess Dashkoff, who was banished by her to Moscow, but afterwards recalled, and the memory of whose courage and actions she wished to obliterate.

She abolished the secret court, instituted by Peter I. to inquire into and punish religious and state crimes : she strove to sooth the people by proclamations, in which her maternal interest was much dwelt upon : and the wise measures she took to increase trade and civilization are entitled to the highest praise. She annihilated torture, as a means of forcing the confession of crimes, and made the laws more mild and equitable. The general toleration she allowed in point of religion, and the invitation she gave to the professors of the liberal arts, and the industrious agriculturist, induced thousands to come from foreign countries and settle upon the unpeopled districts of her empire, while the ingenious beautified her capital by their works, and gave birth to taste amidst a rude and uncultivated people.

Yet Catherine was subject to much disquietude, and obliged to temporize with many, who gave her very different advice. The turbulence of Gregory Orloff, her favourite, disgusted all men of refinement, and filled the court with people like himself boisterous and unlearned. He was induced even to aspire to be her husband ; but whether the intentions of the empress were not really in favour of the project, or that the murmurs of the people obliged her to abandon it, it was soon laid aside. But a conspiracy had been set on foot, which was sanctioned by the most considerable names, and big with the greatest danger. In this dilemma ; not knowing the reality of her suspicions, she thought to obtain from the princess Dashkoff more certain intelligence, and wrote to her a most flattering letter, which was thus answered :

“ Madam,

“ I have heard nothing : but, if I had, I should beware of what I spoke. What is it that you require of me ? that I should expire upon a scaffold ? I am ready to ascend it.”

The empress continued to be harrassed by plots, which she could not stifle, and which yet had not sufficient strength or address to effect their purposes. She employed her mind much in objects of public utility at home, but despotically forced her former lover Poniatofsky, upon the Poles, as their king.

In July, 1764, the unfortunate prince Ivan, who had once been intended by her husband for his successor, in consequence of an order signed by the empress, that the officers on guard were to put him to death, if any attempt was made for his liberation, fell a sacrifice to the zeal of a man who wished to raise him to the throne, and was ignorant of the orders given.

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In magnificent shews which amused the court, in the flatteries of the learned all over Europe, to whom she was a liberal patroness, Catherine sought perhaps as well to still the voice of conscience in her heart, as to give a more favourable cast to her character, blackened by the gradual disclosure of the crimes of a revolution which placed her upon the throne, and which even those who had taken a most active part in those scenes, discovered in the disgust her neglect of their former services created.

Yet the excellent code of laws, drawn up by the empress for her empire, obtained her the title of *Mother of her Country*, and gained her the respect of surrounding nations; and by her liberal patronage of literature and talents, by the benevolent institutions she formed, by her *endeavours* to ameliorate the condition of the peasants, and for the general improvement and instruction of her country, she deserves the highest praise—but she is said in her care for the borders to have neglected the interior of her dominions; and seized with the frenzy of conquest, was always engaged in warlike preparations or in war, though possessing a territory larger than that of ancient Rome. Great parts are often led by a desire of fame into measures which defeat their own end—a great mind alone rises superior to this delusion, and feels its own award superior to the voice of the multitude. Yet Catherine stands forth amidst the great conquerors, legislators, and politicians, with equal pretensions to the highest. Her resolution, her intrepidity, her presence of mind, her sagacity, penetration, and address, are fully allowed—and we may sometimes add her magnanimity and benevolence.

But her ambition was unsatisfied; she engendered the tyrannical and unprincipled design of dismembering the provinces of Poland; sought, and frequently with

success, through the medium of intrigue, to dictate to the cabinets of Stockholm and Copenhagen. But her principal attempts were on the falling empire of the Turks. By the war of 1768, she acquired the provinces of Catherinienslaw, the site of Cherson, and the navigation of the Black Sea. By an uninterrupted series of arbitrary proceedings and cabal, she subjugated the inestimable and beautiful peninsula of Crim Tartary, acquired various districts in the province of Schiraz, and rendered the princes of Georgia her feudatories and vassals. Nothing in the north or east could resist her despotic sway; and, to complete her designs, she was enabled to gain over the restless and capricious mind of the Emperor Joseph to her side, and negotiate with him a sort of indefinite project for the conquest of Constantinople, and the partition of Greece.

Perhaps Catherine found her safety alone in war—the factious spirits were thus employed, and the splendour of victories threw a lustre upon her character which endeared her to her subjects, and made them forget the darker shades.

To describe her numberless institutions for the benefit of her subjects, her wise regulations, or the internal commotions which she overcame, would exceed the limits of this work. To trace her list of favourites, or lovers, would be a useless task. As an author, Catherine has some claims: she wrote three works for the entertainment and instruction of her grand-children, comedies for the amusement of the court, and different memorials, which, at the most eventful periods of her life, were necessary to explain, to move, and conciliate the people. Her letters also to Voltaire are interesting and lively.

She

She was of the middle size, yet by the habit of holding her head high, appeared tall, and had a perfect command of countenance; her eyes were clear and large, her complexion fair, her hair and eye-brows auburn, and her hands and arms beautiful. She, in general, dressed in green, which is the national colour of Russia. She was fond of magnificence, yet familiar and lively in her manner; fond of pleasure, yet vast in her projects, and unbounded in her ambition. It was her wish to leave two vast empires in her family, and she destined the thrones of Petersburg and Constantinople to her two grandsons, Alexander and Constantine.

A coldness and jealousy, for some time before her death, which happened suddenly on the 4th of November, 1796, in the 67th year of her age, had subsisted between her and the grand duke, Paul; but her affection for his children was excessive, and they lamented her, as did all that had been accustomed to her society, with unfeigned regret.

The distraction of Orloff, and the gloom which imbittered the last days of Potemkin, the two of her favourites, who became afterwards her first ministers and generals, must have occasioned some pangs to the mind of Catherine, though that heart was too closely veiled to let its secret emotions be visible. The former, seized with madness and remorse, fancied he continually saw the murdered Peter, in whose misfortunes he had so great a share, and shocked the ears of Catherine with bitter reproaches. It has been doubted, whether she was privy to the murder of her husband, or ever acquainted with the circumstances. Be it as it will, her mind always kept its balance. The most extravagant projects did not bewilder her

her imaginations ; nor the greatest difficulties disarrange her ideas.

Life of Catherine, II. in 3 vols. 8vo. &c.

CATHERINE DE MEDICIS.—See Medicis.

CAYLUS, (MADAME DE),

A BEAUTIFUL and ingenious French lady ; wrote a work, entitled, *Les Souvenir*, which relate many interesting anecdotes of the reign of Lewis XIV. and clear up many historical doubts.

F. C.

CENTLIVRE, (SUSANNAH) *Daughter of Mr. Freeman, of Holbeach, in Lincolnshire. Born 1667, died 1723 ; aged 56;*

A CELEBRATED comic writer ; was of a respectable family, who suffered much for their attachment to whig principles. Her education was entirely of her own acquiring, with the assistance of a neighbouring French gentleman, who undertook to instruct her in the French language, wherein she made such a rapid progress, that, before she was twelve years of age, she could read *Moliere* with vivacity and interest. After the death of her father, the ill-usage of her step-mother induced her to leave home to seek her fortune, on foot and unprotected. Her beauty struck a young man of the university of Cambridge, who persuaded her to become his mistress, and to reside there with him in the disguise of a boy. Afterwards she came to London, and married, in her sixteenth year, a nephew of Sir
Stephen

Stephen Fox ; and, afterwards, a young officer, named Carrol, who was likewise shortly after killed in a duel.

On his death she became an author for subsistence, and wrote fifteen plays, three farces, and several little poems ; for some of which she is said to have received considerable complimentary presents from very great personages. Her most popular plays are, *The Busy Body* ; *The Wonder, a Woman keeps a Secret* ; and *A Bold Stroke for a Wife*. Their character is bustle, spirit, and plot. She afterwards went upon the stage, and at Windsor, in 1706, when she was acting the part of Alexander the Great, Mr. Joseph Centlivre, who had been one of Queen Anne's cooks, fell in love with and married her. She unfortunately wrote a song against Pope's *Homer*, before he published it, which made him give her a place in the *Dunciad*. She corresponded, for many years, with several men of wit, particularly with Steele, Rowe, Budgell, Sewell, Amherst, &c.

New Biographical Dictionary, &c.

CEO, or CIEL (YOLANDA DE) *a Nun of Lisbon.*

Born 1603, died 1693,

FAMOUS for her poetical talents and her eloquence. She wrote some religious theatrical pieces ; and all her works fill two vols. in folio.

CERDA,

CERDA, (BERNARDA DE LA) *a Portugueze Lady, who flourished at the Beginning of the seventeenth Century, and was celebrated by all the Spanish and Portugueze Academies.*

SHE spoke many languages with facility, understood rhetoric, philosophy, and mathematics, and wrote well in prose and verse. Her present works consist of a *Poetical Selection, a Volume of Comedies, &c.*

F. C.

CERETI, or CERETA, (LAURA) *a Professor of Philosophy ; born at Brescia, in Italy, 1469,*

OF great reputation ; has left a collection of letters, which are much admired.

F. C.

CERVATON, (ANNE) *a Spanish Lady, Daughter of Germana de Foix, Mistress of Ferdinand V. King of Spain ;*

To the most exquisite beauty, added a fine and cultivated taste. She spoke her own language with elegance and correctness, and, at the same time, wrote and spoke Latin with the same facility. Some of her letters in this language are still extant.

F. C.

CHANDLER, (MARY) ; *born at Malmsbury, in Wiltshire, in the Year 1687 ; died 1745.*

HER father was a dissenting Minister at Bath, whose circumstances made it necessary that she should be brought

brought up to some business, and accordingly she became a milliner : yet he took special care to train her up in the principles of religion and virtue ; a care that was attended with the utmost success, as is perceivable in her writings.

Mrs. Chandler, from her childhood, had a turn for poetry, often entertained her companions with riddles in verse, and was at that time extremely fond of Herbert's poems. In her riper years she applied herself to the study of the best modern poets; and, as far as translation could assist her, of the ancient ; but liked *Horace* better than either *Virgil* or *Homer*, because he dealt less in fable, and treated of subjects that lay within the sphere of nature and common life. Her poem upon the *Bath* had the full approbation of the public ; and she was complimented upon it by Mr. Pope, with whom she was acquainted. She had the misfortune to be deformed, which determined her to live single ; though she had a sweet countenance, and was solicited to marry. She died after about two days illness, in the 58th year of her age.

F. C.; Female Worthies, &c.

CHAPONE, (MRS.) *died at Hadley, in Middlesex,*
1801, aged 75.

THE account of this lady given by her friend, Mrs. Barbauld, contains little historical information. Her most popular work was *Letters on the Improvement of the Mind*, addressed to a young lady ; published in 1779, which received a warm and just eulogium, as the most unexceptionable treatise that can be put into the hands of youth : as excellent in its moral principles ;

ciples ; wise in the rules of conduct laid down ; and, in the style, equal to our best writers.

Mrs. Chapone's maiden name was Mulso, that of a respectable family in Northamptonshire. She was left a widow early, in narrow circumstances. Her manners were elegant, and she had a fine voice and taste for music. The story of Fidelia, in the *Adventurer*, was written by her, and a poem, prefixed to her friend, Mrs. Carter's *Translation of Epictetus*. She published also a volume of Miscellanies, consisting of poems and plays. The loss of her niece, to whom the Letters on the Mind were addressed, and of a dear brother, injured the health of Mrs. Chapone, and made her, some time before her death, withdraw herself from society.

CHARCE, (*Phillis de la Tour du Pin-Gouverne, Mademoiselle de la*) a French Heroine of the seventeenth Century.

ON the attack the duke of Savoy made upon Dauphiny, in 1692, this courageous lady armed the villages in her department, put herself at their head, and, by little skirmishes, harrassed the enemy in the mountains, and contributed very much to make them abandon the country. In the mean time, her mother exhorted the people in the plains to remain faithful to their duty ; and her sister caused the cables of the boats to be cut, so that they could be of no use to them. Lewis XIV. gave Mademoiselle de la Charce a pension, and permitted her to place her sword and armour in the treasury of St. Denis.

F. C.

CHA-

CHARIXENA,

A VERY learned Grecian lady, who, besides what she wrote in prose, is said to have composed many things in verse, and particularly a poem entitled *Crumata*. She is mentioned by Aristophanes.

CHATELET, (GABRIELLE-EMILIE *de Breteuil*,
Marchioness du); born 1706, died 1749, aged 43.

FROM her early youth read the best authors, without the medium of a translation; Tasso, Milton, and Virgil were alike familiar to her; and her ear was particularly sensible to the melody of verse. She was endowed with great eloquence, but not of that sort which consists only in displaying wit or acquirements; precision was the character of hers. She would rather have written with the solidity of Pascal than with the charms of Sévigné. She loved abstract sciences, studied mathematics deeply, and published an explanation of the philosophy of Leibnitz, under the title of *Institutions de Physique*, in 8vo. addressed to her son. The preliminary discourse to which is said to be a model of reason and eloquence. Afterwards she published a treatise on *The Nature of Fire*. To know common geometry did not satisfy her. She was so well skilled in the philosophy of Newton, that she translated his works, and enriched them by a commentary, in 4 vols. 4to. its title is *Principes Mathématiques de la Philosophie Naturelle*. This work, which cost her infinite labour, is supposed to have hastened her death.

She was beautiful, and, according to her friend Voltaire, more solicitous to conceal her knowledge than display

display it. The king of Prussia, who had long desired to see the philosopher of Ferney, on her death, refused to hear any more excuses. “ I have yielded to madame Chatelet, on the score of a twenty year’s friend-ship,” said he ; “ but I also have known you a long time.”

In a dedication to her, Voltaire says ; “ one reason why we should esteem women of letters is, because they study from taste and inclination only ; while, with us, it must be acknowledged, it is often from vanity or interest. — It is true, that a woman who should neglect the duties of her family and station, to cultivate the sciences, would be blameable, let her progress be what it would : but the same spirit which leads to the knowledge of truth, will instruct us in the performance of duty.”

F. C.

CHELONIS, *Daughter of Leonidas, and Wife of Cleombrotus, both Kings of Lacedemon.*

By means of a faction, the former was obliged to take sanctuary in a temple, and the latter raised to the throne. Chelonis, far from sharing in her husband’s good fortune, retired into the same temple with her father, and dwelt there with him in mortification and penance. Afterwards he was permitted to retire to Tagea, whither Chelonis also accompanied him. Cleombrotus, in his turn, being dethroned, Leonidas was restored to his kingdom ; but Chelonis, no longer sensible of her husband’s fault, determined to share his misfortune with him, though she had no share in his prosperity.

Leonidas, with an armed force, went to the place where his son-in-law was sheltered, and, in the most
passionate

passionate manner, upbraided him with the injuries he had received. Cleombrotus had nothing to answer; but his wife spoke for him, protesting at the same time, she would die with him, if her prayers and tears proved unsuccessful to save his life, and obtain leave for him to retire where he chose. Upon this, Leonidas granted him his life and liberty, and most affectionately besought her to continue with him; but, putting one of her children into her husband's arms, whilst she held the other, she went to pray at the altar, and immediately after, accompanied her husband to the place of his banishment.

Female Worthies.

CHEMIN, (CATHERINE DU) *Wife of the celebrated Sculptor, Girardon, who consecrated a fine Mausoleum to her Memory. She was a most excellent Flower Painter. Died 1698.*

CHERON, (ELIZABETH SOPHIA) *born at Paris, 1648, died 1711, aged 63, distinguished herself greatly by her Application to Music, Painting, and Poetry;*

DAUGHTER of Henry Cheron, a painter, native of Meaux, and educated in the protestant religion; but, became, some years afterwards, a catholic. Le Brun, in 1676, invited her to the meetings of the Royal Academy of Painting and Sculpture. She understood Latin, Italian, and Spanish; played on several instruments, and had a fine voice. Her portraits, amongst which are several crowned heads, were always painted in an allegorical and ingenious manner.

Her

Her chief historical pieces are, a *Flight into Egypt*; *Cassandra interrogating a Familiar on the Fate of Troy*; and *Jesus in a Sepulchre*. The only portrait ever taken of Madame des Houlières was done by her.

None surpassed her in the variety of her accomplishments and talents. Her poetry has ease, gaiety and imagination. And, besides several smaller pieces, some original, some translations, after studying Hebrew, that she might better understand the Psalms and Canticles, she published translations of them in French verse.

She did not alone excel in portraits, but understood figures, and her groups are much admired by connoisseurs. She is said to have been able to join cheerfully in any conversation without the least interruption to her pencil. She was respected and admired by all lovers of literature. The emperor Joseph offered her a considerable pension if she would remove to Vienna; and, on her declining it, sent her models of his face and those of all the imperial family. She had a pension of 500 livres from Lewis XIV. At the age of 60 she married le Hay, engineer to the king, an old friend, merely to raise his fortune. She was exceedingly pious and amiable.

Memoirs of French Ladies, Father Feejoo, &c.

CHRISTINA DE PISA, *lived in France, at the Court of Charles VI.*

HER works constituted a considerable part of the old French literature; she was particularly acquainted with the earl of Salisbury, who was himself a poet.

CHRISTINA, (*Queen of Sweden*) Daughter of the great Gustavus Adolphus. Born 1626, died 1689; aged 54.

HER father took great pleasure in carrying her about with him; and observing her natural intrepidity, wished to make her a soldier, but died too soon; and Christina laments in her memoirs, that she was not permitted to learn the art of war under so great a master; she regretted also, during her whole life, that she never marched at the head of an army, or so much as saw a battle.

The tears which she shed, when he set out on his German expedition, were regarded as a bad omen; and she betrayed the hero himself into tears, by an act of childish simplicity. Taking leave of him, by a little compliment which she had learned by heart; she repeated it when Gustavus, being abstracted in thought, did not hear; but, not content with having said her lesson, she pulled him by his sleeve to excite attention, and began to say her little speech again. At this, the father was affected, caught her in his arms, and, after pressing her to his breast for some minutes, gave her to an attendant without speaking.

The states of Sweden being assembled, after his death, the marshal of the diet proposed the crowning Christina, by virtue of a decree which had declared the daughters of the posterity of Charles IX. the father of Gustavus, capable of succeeding to the throne. She was immediately proclaimed queen; and, from this time, shewed much pleasure in appearing in her regal capacity, though only six years old.

The mind of Christina could never forget the war-

like and masculine scenes she had, in her infancy, been accustomed to, and accordingly had no taste for the employments and conversation of women. She was, on the contrary, fond of violent exercises, and such amusements as consist in feats of strength and activity; she had both ability and taste for abstracted speculations, and amused herself with languages and the sciences, particularly that of legislature and government.

While she was thus improving her infancy, by studying the art of peace, her generals sustained the glory of the Swedish arms in the thirty years wars. Attaining her eighteenth year, in 1644, she took the reins of government in her own hands, and was in every respect able to manage them. As the sovereign of a powerful kingdom, it is not strange that she was sought in marriage by almost all the princes of Europe. Amongst others, Charles Gustavus, duke of Bonn Ponts, her first cousin, having served with great reputation in her armies, and assiduously cultivated her regard, ventured to pay his addresses, and propose marriage; and though she was averse to dividing her authority, she condescended to promise him, that if she ever consented to lose her liberty she would give him the preference. She had already determined, by some means, to raise him to the throne, and seems to have acted generously, by striving to inspire the people with an high opinion of his character.

Political interests, difference of religion, and contrariety of manners, furnished Christina with pretences for rejecting all her suitors; but her true motives were the love of independence, and an aversion she had conceived to marriage, even in her infancy. "Do not force me to marry," she said to the states; "for if I should

should have a son, it is not more probable that he should be an Augustus than a Nero."

As she was at the chapel of the castle at Stockholm, assisting at divine service with the principal lords of her court, a man, who was disordered in his mind, came to the place, with a design to assassinate her. This man, who was preceptor of the college, and in the full vigour of his age, chose, for the execution of his design, the moment when the assembly was performing what, in the Swedish church, is called *an act of recollection*, a silent and separate act of devotion of each individual kneeling, and hiding the face with the hand. Taking this opportunity, he rushed through the crowd, and mounted a balustrade, within which the queen was upon her knees. The baron Brahi, chief justice of Sweden, saw him, and cried out; and the guards crossed their partizans, to prevent his coming farther; but he struck them furiously on one side, leaped over the barrier, and, being close to the queen, made a blow at her with a knife that he had concealed, without a sheath, in his sleeve. She avoided the blow, and pushed the captain of her guards, who instantly threw himself upon the assassin, and seized him by the hair: all this happened in a moment of time. The man was known to be mad; they therefore contented themselves with locking him up; and the queen returned to her devotion, without the least emotion that could be perceived by the people, who were much more frightened than herself.

No less ambitious of fame than her father, though neither in the camp nor cabinet, she immortalized her short reign by her attachment to the arts and learned men. Anxious for literary repose, she promoted the peace of Westphalia, in opposition to the wishes of

Oxenstiern, whose father having been justly honoured with the confidence of Gustavus, had governed Sweden with an authority almost absolute during Christina's minority ; who soon began to be weary of his yoke. The peace, however, so much desired and so necessary, was at last concluded in 1648. The success of the Swedish arms rendered her the arbitress of this treaty, at least as to the affairs of Sweden, to which it confirmed the possession of many important countries.

No public event of importance took place during the remainder of her reign, for there were neither wars abroad nor troubles at home. This quiet might be the effect of chance, but it might also be that of a good administration. The great reputation of the queen, and the love her people had for her, ought to incline us to the latter determination.

The peace had lightened the cares of government, but they were still too weighty for her. "I think I see the devil!" said she, "when my secretary enters with his dispatches." The Swedes, among whom refinement had made little progress, but whose martial spirit was now at its height, could not bear to see the daughter of the great Augustus devote her time and talents solely to the study of dead languages ; to the dispute about vortexes, innate ideas, and other unavailing speculations ; to a, perhaps affected, taste for medals, statues, pictures, and public spectacles, in contempt of the noble cares of royalty ; and were yet more displeased to find the resources of the kingdom exhausted, in what, they considered, inglorious pursuits and childish amusements. An universal discontent arose, and Christina was again pressed to marry. The disgust occasioned by this importunity, first suggested to her the idea of quitting the throne. She accordingly signified her intention of resigning,

signing, in a letter, to Charles Gustavus, and of surrendering her crown in full senate.

That prince, during his absence in Germany, had permission to correspond with the queen, and used it to promote his own interest in her affections. Archkenholtz relates, that he declared in one of his letters, that if her majesty persisted in her refusal, he was determined to decline the honours she proposed of nominating him her successor, and for ever banish himself from Sweden. This, however, seems to be only the language of gallantry.

Christina had drawn to her court all the distinguished characters of her time; Grotius, Paschal, Bochart, Descartes, Cassendi, Saumaise, Naude, Vossius, Heinsius, Meiborn, Scudery, Menage, Lucas, Holstenius, Lambecius, Bayle, Filicaia, and many others: almost all have celebrated her, either in poems, letters, or literary productions of some other kind, the greater part of which are now forgotten.

Christina, however, may be justly reproached with want of taste, in not properly assigning the rank of all these persons, whose merits, though acknowledged, were unequal. She had lately affected a contempt of pomp, power, grandeur, and all the magnificence and splendour of a court. To be thought wise and learned was her chief passion; though she forfeited her title to superior wisdom, by counterfeiting inclinations which she did not possess, and laying a constant restraint on her natural sentiments. Poets, painters, and philosophers were her greatest favourites. She corresponded with the most celebrated scholars in Europe, and purchased the paintings of Titian at an extravagant price, which were then suffered to be clipped, to fit the

pannels of her gallery. In a word, vanity was the foible of Christina ; it had already been gratified with respect to power and grandeur ; and now it flowed into a new channel. She aspired at being the sovereign of the learned, and dictating in the lyceum as she had done in the senate.

When she signified her intention of resigning, Charles Gustavus, trained in dissimulation, and fearing she had laid a snare for him, rejected the proposal. The strongest arguments and reasonings were employed for several months to divert her from it ; but whether she imagined she had gone too far to recede with a good grace, or that her wishes continued the same, she continued firm in her resolution, till the principal members of the state, headed by the chancellor, waited upon her with the utmost solemnity ; and, as a last effort, supplicated in so pathetic a manner, that she consented to postpone her design, on condition that she should never be pressed to marry.

An unfortunate accident happened a few days after she had given her promise, which nearly occasioned her premature death. Having given orders for some ships of war to be built at Stockholm, she went to see them, and as she was going aboard, across a narrow plank, with admiral Fleming, his foot slipping, he fell, and drew her with him into the sea, which, in that place, was near 90 feet deep. The first equerry instantly threw himself into the water, laid hold of the queen's robe, and got her on shore. During this accident, her recollection and presence of mind were such, that the moment her lips were above water, she cried out, " Take care of the admiral ! "

Until the year 1654, nothing memorable occurred in
Sweden.

Sweden. In that year Christina finally resigned her crown, finding it impossible to reconcile her literary pursuits, or, more properly, her love of ease and romantic turn of mind, with the duties of her station. Her intention was spread over the kingdom instantaneously ; and this extraordinary resolution, which greatly exalted her character with the Swedes, affected them like a sudden explosion of thunder. All were struck dumb with her firmness ; no one attempting to dissuade her from a purpose upon which they perceived her determined. The senate assembled at Upsal, heard Christina declare her design with silent astonishment ; they only ventured to reply, that they were in expectation her promises to continue the government would have been of longer duration.

While they were deliberating upon the measures which would be necessary in consequence of her resignation, Christina dispatched a messenger to the hereditary prince, to treat with him on the revenues to be assigned for the support of her dignity, after her abdication. It was proposed that two hundred thousand rix dollars should be annually paid her, in certain instalments, and that many provinces of the kingdom should be appropriated, so as to render this revenue certain and unalienable. All being at length adjusted to mutual satisfaction, the queen turned her eyes to the security of the succession, in case the hereditary prince died without issue ; but finding the people opposed her design, to settle it in the family of the count de Tot, who was of the royal blood, and a favourite of hers, she prudently declined it ; and assembled the states at Upsal, where, in a set speech, she recapitulated the transactions of her reign, and the instances of her care and affection for the people ; she specified all the measures
she

she had taken to prevent any inconveniences that might result from her determination, and concluded with fixing upon the 16th of June, as the day on which she proposed resigning the crown and sovereignty to her cousin.

When the time arrived, which she expected with as much eagerness as other princesses have wished for their coronation, she was astonished that the states proposed to fix her residence in Sweden, as it was her design to live where she pleased, in countries where the sciences had made greater progress. This difficulty however she removed, by pretending her health made a short residence at Spa necessary. She then divested herself of all authority, resigning the crown to Gustavus, and dismissed the assembly with a pathetic oration, which drew tears from all the hearers.

Such was the extraordinary manner in which Christina resigned her crown, at the age of twenty-seven, after a reign equally glorious to herself and to Sweden, whose reputation was never at so high a pitch as under her government. In other countries the arts languished during tedious bloody wars; under Christina they flourished by the force of her own example.

No prince, after a long imprisonment, ever shewed so much joy upon being restored to his kingdom, as Christina did in quitting hers. When she came to a little brook, which separates Sweden from Denmark, she got out of her carriage, and, leaping to the other side, cried out in a transport of joy; "At last I am free, and out of Sweden, whither I hope I shall never return." She took with her whatever she had collected as curious and valuable, leaving her palace bare. After dismissing her women, she laid by the habit of her sex; "I would become a man," said she; "yet I do not
love

love men because they are men, but because they are not women." She made some stay at Brussels, where she saw the great Condé. They were very friendly at first, but afterwards disputed on an idle point of ceremony, on which they ought neither of them to have contended.

Christina, besides abdicating her crown, abjured her religion, and embraced that of the Romish church. The catholics considered this as a great triumph, and the protestants were not a little mortified at the defection of so celebrated a woman; but both without reason; for the queen of Sweden meant only to conform in appearance to the tenets of the people among whom she intended to live, in order, more agreeably, to enjoy the pleasures of social intercourse. Of this her letters afford sufficient proof.

But, like most sovereigns who have quitted a throne, in order to escape from the cares of royalty, she found herself no less uneasy in private life. She soon discovered that a queen without power was a very insignificant character, and is supposed to have repented of her resignation. But, however that may be, it is certain she became tired of her situation, and made two journies from Italy into France, where she was received with great respect by the learned, whom she had pensioned and flattered; but with little attention by the polite, especially of her own sex, as her masculine airs and conversation kept women of delicacy at a distance.

Her capricious violence and arbitrary temper, ill agreeing with the resigner of a crown, was continually shewing itself, not only by her intriguing afterwards for that of Poland, but, in one instance, in a manner so dreadful, that she was obliged to leave France on account of the odium it threw on her character. The affair
alluded

alluded to is that of Monaldeschi, her favourite, whom she ordered to be assassinated, for an act of unfaithfulness as a lover, and of treachery as a subject, though she was no longer a queen, in the great gallery of Fontainebleau, and almost in her own presence.

Christina, from her youth, had been taught to consider herself as a prodigy, and thought that events and their agents ought to bow before her. Of this the expressions constantly used in her letters are a proof, with respect to those with whom she was displeased; for she scarce ever signified her displeasure without threatening the life of the offender.

She went to Rome, after this to Sweden (her appointments being very ill paid) where she was not very well received; from Sweden to Hamburgh, where she continued a year, and then again to Rome; from Rome she returned to Hamburgh; and, on the death of Charles Gustavus, in 1660, returned to Sweden, it is said, with an intent to resume the government; but this could not be admitted on account of her change of religion, upon which she went back to Hamburgh, and from thence again to Rome. She intended another journey to Sweden; but it did not take place, any more than an expedition to England, where Cromwell did not seem well disposed to receive her; and, after many wanderings and many purposes of wanderings more, at last died at Rome.

Fond of business, and of acting an important part in every event, she was always solicitous to enter into the intrigues of a court, or to mediate between its factions; and by this means, as well as by exacting the deference due to a queen when she was so no longer, spent her time in a manner unworthy of her former character.

Modern Hist. Modern Europe, M Lacombe.

CHUD.

CHUDLEIGH, (LADY MARY) *Daughter of Sir Richard Lee, of Winslade, Devonshire. Born 1656, died 1710,*

WAS taught no other language but her mother tongue, though her love of books and great capacity, enabled her to make a very considerable figure among the literati of her time.

She was married to Sir George Chudleigh, of Ashton, in the county of Devon, baronet, by whom she had two children; was as eminent for virtue as understanding; and, though well versed in poetry and history, dedicated much of her time to the study of philosophy and divinity, as appears from her excellent essays, which discover an uncommon degree of piety and knowledge, and a noble contempt of common vanities.

The works she wrote and published are, *The Ladies' Defence; or, the Bride-woman's Counsellor answered: a poem.—In a Dialogue between Sir John Brute and Sir William Loveall; Melissa and a Parson.* This last piece has been several times published, and was occasioned by an angry sermon preached against the ladies. She wrote also, *The Song of the Three Children paraphrased*; and many other poems upon various subjects, which are printed together, with the following title; *Poems on various Occasions. By the Lady Chudleigh.* Likewise *Essays on several Subjects, in Prose and Verse.* These are upon *Knowledge, Pride, Humility, Life, Death, Fear, Grief, Self-love, Justice, Riches, Anger, Calumny, Friendship, Love, Avarice, Solitude*; and are dedicated to her royal highness the princess Sophia, electress and duchess dowager of Brunswick, who, then in her
eightieth

eightieth year, honoured her with an epistle in French on the occasion.

At the end of the second volume of the duke of Wharton's *Poems*, are five letters from Lady Chudleigh, to the Rev. Mr. Norris, of Bemerton, and to Corinna, *i. e.* Mrs. Elizabeth Thomas.

She wrote several other things, which, though not printed, are carefully preserved in the family, viz. two tragedies, two operas, and a masque. Some of *Lucian's Dialogues*, in verse; *Satirical Reflections on Saqualia*, in imitation of Lucian's Dialogues, with several small poems.

She had been confined to her chamber by the rheumatism, a considerable time before her death, which happened at Ashton, in Devonshire, in the fifty-fifth year of her age.

Female Worthies, &c.

CIBBER, (MRS. SUSANNA MARIA),

For several years reckoned, not only the first actress in England, but supposed by many to excel the celebrated Mademoiselle Clairon, of the continent; was the daughter of Mr. Arne, an upholsterer, who resided in King-street, Covent-garden, and sister to the celebrated Dr. Arne.

Miss Arne was born 1715. Her education was suitable to a young woman who had then the hopes of a very ample fortune: she made great proficiency in whatever was taught her, having a most remarkably lively genius, and a very tenacious memory; but dancing and music more particularly engaged her attention; and her brother's early eminence in the latter science, enabled him

him to give her such useful lessons, as soon put her upon a level with most of the capital singers of that period. She had, however, at this time, no thoughts of coming upon the stage; but her father dying, and the state of his affairs turning out very different from what was expected, she was prevailed upon to exert her musical talents in public, and introduced to Mr. Fleetwood in the year 1734. He engaged her, as a singer, at Drury-lane theatre the ensuing season, at a salary of a hundred pounds, and a benefit.

Mr. Theophilus Cibber, about this time, lost his first wife, and Miss Arne's beauty, accomplishments, and unblemished reputation, induced him to pay his addresses to her in form. Mr. Colley Cibber was at first averse to the match, thinking his son entitled to a woman of fashion and fortune. The match nevertheless, unfortunately for Miss Arne, took place, and they were married in 1735. Great cordiality subsisted between them for some time; and Colley Cibber, who by the amiable deportment of his daughter-in-law, and seeming reformation of his son, was induced to take the young couple into favour, undertook to teach Mrs. Cibber the art of acting, that she might obtain a better salary, (they were at that time very poor) and more rank upon the stage.

Upon her first attempt to declaim in tragedy, as he informs us, he was surprised at such a variety of powers united. She had been two years upon Drury-lane stage as an actress, when her husband, by the most reiterated villainy, introduced and encouraged a gentleman to seduce his wife, with whom she afterwards lived. By this occurrence she was estranged some years from the stage, returning about the year 1742.

She now appeared in almost every capital character in tragedy,

tragedy. Her voice was beyond description plaintive and musical, yet far from deficient in powers for the expression of resentment or disdain, she possessed an equal command of features; and though she latterly lost the bloom of heath, and grew thin, yet there still remained so complete a symmetry and proportion in the different parts of her form, that it was impossible to view her figure and not believe her in the prime of youth. Her success in comedy was not equal to the applause she met with in tragedy.

She translated *The Oracle*, a piece in two acts, from the French of Saintfoix, which was performed for her benefit in the year 1750, and received with applause. She was a Roman Catholic, and died 1766, at her house in Scotland-yard, Whitehall, of a rupture in one of the coats of the stomach; her disorder having equally surprised and baffled the physicians who attended her.

Annual Register, Biog. Dict.

CLAUDIA RUFINA, *a noble British Lady, about the Year 100, Wife of Aulus Rufus Pudens, a Bononian Philosopher, and one of the Roman Equestrian Order;*

SAID to have been a great associate with the poet Martial, who, in many places, highly extols her for beauty, learning, and eminent virtues: of her poetic writings, Balæus mentions a book of *Epigrams, Elegy on her Husband's Death*, and other verses on various subjects; besides which, she is said to have written many things in prose.

Female Worthies.

CLEMENT,

CLEMENT, (MARGARET) *born 1508,*

NIECE to Sir Thomas More, in whose house she was brought up, and carefully educated with his daughter in the learned languages, and almost all the liberal sciences, in which she seems to have made a great progress. She corresponded with the celebrated Erasmus, who commends her epistles for their good sense and chaste Latin. Mr. Thomas More, who wrote the life of his great grandfather Sir Thomas, makes honourable mention of her, and styles her a learned woman.

About the year 1531, she was married to her tutor, Dr. John Clements. They had one daughter, named Winifred, on whose education she bestowed the same care as was taken of her own. Mr. Anthony Wood styles her an ingenious and learned woman, and says, she was married to Mr. William Rastall (nephew to Sir Thomas More) a celebrated writer, and the most eminent lawyer of his time.

Female Worthies.

CLEOPATRA, *Queen of Egypt, Mistress of Marc Antony. Died B. C. 30 ; aged 39 ;*

DAUGHTER of Ptolemy Auletes, who, dying in the year 51 B.C. bequeathed his crown to his eldest son and daughter, ordering them to be married according to the usage of their family, and jointly govern the kingdom. They were both very young, Cleopatra the eldest, not being above seventeen ; and therefore he committed them to the tuition of the Roman senate. They could not agree, either to be married, or to reign together. Ptolemy, the brother, deprived Cleopatra of that share in the government left her by her father's will, and drove her

her out of the kingdom. She raised an army in Syria and Palestine, and went to war with him.

At this juncture, Julius Cæsar, in pursuit of Pompey, sailed into Egypt, and came to Alexandria. Here he employed himself in hearing the controversy between Ptolemy and his sister Cleopatra, as an arbitrator appointed by the will of Auletes, the power of the Romans being then vested in him as their dictator. The cause was accordingly brought to a hearing, and advocates appointed on both sides to plead it. But Cleopatra, knowing Cæsar was a great admirer of beauty, laid a plot to make him of her side : sending therefore to him, she complained, that her cause was betrayed by those who managed it for her, and prayed that she might be permitted herself to plead before him. This being granted, she came secretly into the port of Alexandria, in a small skiff, in the dusk of the evening ; and, to facilitate her passage to Cæsar, without fear of her brother's party, who then commanded the place, she caused herself to be tied up in her bedding, and carried to his apartment on the back of one of her servants.

Cæsar was too sensible of female charms to resist those of Cleopatra. She was then about twenty, and one of those perfect beauties, whose every feature has its particular charm, and was possessed of wit, a commanding address, and a voice singularly harmonious and insinuating. In short, Cæsar soon after sent for Ptolemy, and pressed him to receive his sister again upon her own terms. But, perceiving that, instead of her judge, he was her advocate, Ptolemy appealed to the people, and put the whole city in an uproar. A war commenced, which was soon terminated by a battle, in which Cæsar overcame, and Ptolemy, attempting to escape over the Nile in a boat, was drowned.

drowned. Upon which Cæsar settled the kingdom upon Cleopatra and the surviving Ptolemy, her younger brother, then but eleven years old, as king and queen; which was in effect putting the whole power into her hands; for when he became 15, and thereby capable of sharing the royal authority, she poisoned him, and reigned alone over Egypt.

The younger sister, named Arsinoe, siding in the war with her brother Ptolemy, was taken prisoner by Cæsar, and carried to Rome, in order to grace his triumph. He afterwards dismissed her, but would not suffer her to return to Egypt, lest she should disturb Cleopatra's government; so she settled in Asia. There Antony found her after the battle of Philippi; and, at the request of her sister, caused her to be put to death.

It was for the sake of Cleopatra that Cæsar entered into this war, when he had but a very inconsiderable force with him, and staid much longer in Egypt than his affairs could well admit. Suetonius reports that he went up the Nile with her in a magnificent galley, and that he had gone as far as Ethiopia, if his army had not refused to follow him. She had by him a son, named Cæsarion, and followed him to Rome, where he was killed in the senate-house; at which she was so terrified that she fled with the utmost precipitation. Her authority and credit with Cæsar, in whose house she lodged, had made her insolence intolerable to the Romans. Cicero had a conference with her in Cæsar's gardens; where, he tells us, the haughtiness of her behaviour gave him no small offence. Afterwards she applied to him, by her agents, in a particular suit she was recommending to the senate; but he refused to interfere in her favour.

After the battle of Philippi, Cleopatra was summoned by Antony to answer an accusation against her, of favouring the interest of Cassius. She had done so, and was sensible that this was not very agreeable to the triumviri, considering what she owed to the memory of Julius Cæsar. She depended, however, on her wit and beauty; and, full of confidence, went to Antony, who waited for her at Tarsus, in Cilicia. Arriving at the mouth of the river Cydnus, Cleopatra embarked in a vessel whose stern was of gold, sails of purple silk, and oars of silver, while a concert of several instruments kept time with the motion of the vessel. She herself was laid under a canopy of rich cloth of gold, dressed like Venus rising out of the sea. About, were lovely children, like Cupids, fanning her; the handsomest of her women, habited like Nereids and Graces, were leaning negligently on the shrouds of the vessel; the sweets that were burning perfumed the banks of the river, which were covered with a vast number of people, so that Antony, who was mounted on a throne, to make a show of majesty, was left quite alone, while the multitude at the river, with shouts, cried out, that “Venus was come to visit Bacchus for the happiness of Asia.”

By these arts, and the charms of her person, she drew Antony into those snares which held him enslaved while he lived, and were the occasion of his death. Accompanying him as far as Tyre, she returned to Egypt, firmly persuaded he could not stay long behind her. Indeed he soon followed, and spent the whole winter in the enjoyment of those varied pleasures, which she every day provided.

Antony's passion for Cleopatra, and the gifts he daily
made

made her of Roman provinces, which he joined to her dominions, raised great murmurings at Rome, which Octavius Cæsar privately observed and encouraged; partly out of ambition to reign alone, and partly from resentment at the wrongs of his sister Octavia, the wife of Antony; and on these accounts, he wanted to break with him, and declare the war.

To prepare the way to this, when Antony returned from his unsuccessful expedition against the Parthians, Cæsar sent Octavia to meet him. He was then at Luco-polis, between Tyre and Sidon, where he waited for Cleopatra with great impatience. At length she came; and at the same instant, arrived a messenger of Cleopatra from Athens. This was heavy news for Cleopatra, who had great reason to dread so powerful a rival. She conceived a deep melancholy; abstained almost entirely from food; and finally prevailed with Antony to desire Octavia would return to Rome, while he attended her rival to Alexandria, where he passed the winter in luxury and dissipation. Here, as if to irritate the Romans more, he disposed of the provinces in his share of the empire, to Cleopatra and her children.

Cæsar now thought it time to declare war, and preparations were made on both sides. Antony and Cleopatra went to Ephesus, where his lieutenants had got together eight hundred vessels. He was advised to send the queen back to Egypt, till the war was ended, and had resolved to do so; but fearing Octavia should come to her husband and make a peace, she queen over-ruled the project, and went on with him to Samos. Here, by way of prelude to so great an enterprise, they ordered, on the one hand, all the kings, princes, and nations, from Egypt to the Euxine sea, and from Armenia to Dalmatia, to send arms, provisions, and soldiers to Samos; on

the other, all the comedians, dancers, musicians, and buffoons, were obliged to come to his table. Antony, however, began to suspect Cleopatra of attempts against his life, and would neither eat nor drink without a taster. But, as this precaution alarmed her, she undertook to convince him that it was necessary to guard against her. Once, therefore, she proposed a new diversion, of dipping the flowers of their garlands in wine. Antony applauded the frolic, and began to eat, as she foresaw; but, on his offering to put the cup to his mouth, she prevented him, saying, “Know Cleopatra better, and learn by this, that all your suspicions against her would signify nothing, if her heart was not interested in your preservation.” It seemed that the outside flowers were poisoned; and to prove that they were, a criminal was immediately brought in by order, who drank the wine, and expired upon the spot.

The battle of Actium, partly by the flight of Cleopatra, who was followed by her lover, was determined in favour of Cæsar. Antony was so hurt and offended on this occasion, that he spent three days without seeing her; but afterwards was prevailed upon to be reconciled.

In the mean time, Cleopatra made use of all sorts of poison upon criminals, even the biting of serpents; and finding, after many experiments, that the sting of asps gave the most quick and easy death, it is thought she, from that time, made choice of it, if her ill fortune should drive her to extremity.

After they returned to Egypt, and found themselves abandoned by all their allies, they sent to make proposals to Cæsar. Cleopatra asked the kingdom of Egypt for her children; and Antony desired he might live as
a private

a private man at Athens, if Cæsar was not willing he should stay where he was. Cæsar absolutely rejected his proposal; but sent word to Cleopatra, that he would refuse her nothing that was just and reasonable, if she would rid herself of Antony, or drive him out of her kingdom. She refused to act openly against the man she had ruined; but betrayed and deluded him till he was obliged to put an end to his own life, or fall into the hands of Cæsar. She bewailed his loss most passionately; but still, on Cæsar's approach to Alexandria, was attentive to her own security. Near the temple of Isis she had raised a stately building, which she designed for her sepulchre.

There she now retired; and had all her treasure brought there, gold, jewels, pearls, ivory, ebony, cinnamon, and other precious woods. It was filled besides with torches, faggots, tow, and combustibles; so that Cæsar, who had notice of it, was afraid, out of despair, she should burn herself in it with all her riches; and therefore contrived to give her hopes of good usage from him. He wished to secure her for his triumph, and, with this view, sent Proculus to employ all his art and address to seize her. Cleopatra would not let him enter, but spoke to him through the chinks of the door. Proculus, however, stole in, with two others, at a window. Upon which Cleopatra would have stabbed herself; but the Roman caught hold of her arm, and besought her not to deprive his master of an opportunity of shewing his generosity.

Cæsar commanded her to be served in all respects like a queen: but she became inconsolable for the loss of her liberty, and fell into a fever, which gave her hopes that all her sorrows would soon end with life. She had

resolved to abstain from eating; but this being known, her children were threatened with death, if she persisted in it. On Cæsar's visiting her, she attempted to ensnare his heart likewise, but failed as she had done once before with Herod, king of Judea, whose dominions she many times prayed Antony to give her.

Having private notice, soon after, that within three days she was to be carried to Rome, she caused herself to be bitten by an asp, brought to her concealed in a basket of figs; and of this she died, not, however, till she had performed some funeral rites to the memory of Antony, and shed abundance of tears on his tomb. Cæsar was extremely troubled at her death, which deprived him of the greatest ornament of his triumph. He ordered her a very magnificent funeral; and her body, as she desired, was laid by that of Antony.

Thus ended the life of this princess, after she had reigned, from the death of her father, twenty-two years, and lived thirty-nine. She was a woman of great parts, and spoke several languages with the utmost readiness; for besides being well skilled in Greek and Latin, she could converse with Ethiopians, Troglodites, Jews, Arabians, Syrians, Medes and Persians, without an interpreter; and always answered them in their own language. She was selfish and extravagant to the extreme of each quality. Her taste was luxury, and her wisdom cunning; but accompanied with unrivalled address and penetration into characters.

In her death ended the reign of the family of the Ptolemies in Egypt, after it had subsisted from the death of Alexander, two hundred and ninety-four years; for, after this, Egypt was reduced to a Roman province, and so remained for six hundred and seventy years,

years, till it was taken from them by the Saracens.

[Female Worthies, &c.]

CLERMONT, (CLAUDE - CATHERINE DE)

Daughter of Clermont, Lord of Dampierre, Wife first of M. d'Annebaut, who perished in the Civil Wars of France; afterwards of Albert, Duke de Metz; Lady of Honour to Catherine de Medicis, and Governess to the royal Children. Died 1603; aged 65.

SHE was an only daughter, and received a most careful education, being habituated to study from her early youth, and inured to close application, which neither injured her health or her beauty. During the absence of her second husband, who was successively ambassador in England, Germany, and Poland, she left her studies, to replace him near the throne, and to prevent his enemies having the ear of the king to his disadvantage. In all foreign affairs she was consulted as the only person at court who knew the languages. Afterwards, when her husband was in Italy, the marquis de Belle-Isle, her son, was gained over by the *leaguers*, and resolved to seize his father's estate. To prevent him, she assembled soldiers, and put herself at their head; which defeated the project, and maintained her vassals in obedience to their king. Henry IV. who knew how to appreciate worth, honoured the duchess with praises, and loaded her with favours. Nobody was more happy than herself—surrounded by a numerous family, and the object of general esteem and admiration. She survived her husband but a few months.

F. C.

CLIS-

CLISSON, (JANE DE BELLEVILLE, *Wife of Oliver III. Lord of*),

PHILIP de Valois, king of France, having caused her husband to be beheaded, in 1343, on an unauthenticated suspicion of intelligence with England, Jane, burning with revenge, sent her son, but twelve years of age, secretly to London; and, having no more to fear for him, sold her jewels, armed three vessels, and with them assailed all the French that she met with. The new corsair made descents in Normandy, took their castles; and the inhabitants of the villages saw frequently one of the most beautiful women in Europe with a sword in one hand, and a flambeau in the other, enforce, with inhuman pleasure, the horrors of her cruel and misplaced revenge.

F. C.

CLIVE, (CATHERINE) *a celebrated Actress in Comedy. Born 1711.*

IN 1732, she married a gentleman in the law, brother to lord Clive, from whom she was separated soon after. In 1769, she quitted the stage, and lived a retired life at Twickenham, where she died, 1785. Her character was regular and exemplary.

New Biographical Dictionary, &c.

CLOTILDA, *Queen of France, married in 491, to Clovis; died 548,*

NIECE of Gondebald, king of the Burgundians, a woman of extraordinary beauty, sense, and virtue. Her fame

fame made an impression on the heart of Clovis, who asked her in marriage, and she was carried to him in a kind of waggon drawn by oxen, and married at Soissons. Being a christian, her eldest son was baptized, by the king's consent; but, on his death, Clovis murmured loudly, yet permitted her to have the second baptized in like manner; this likewise fell ill, and the king became furious, saying, it would die like its brother, in consequence of being devoted to her god; but the child recovered, and he began to entertain more favourable ideas of the christian religion; for in 496, Clovis being engaged in a bloody battle with the Germans, he found his troops begin to give way, when, lifting up his eyes to heaven, he exclaimed; "God of my queen Clotilda, if thou grant me victory, I here vow to receive baptism, and hereafter to worship no other god than you." Having said this, he rallied his forces, again led them to the charge, forced through the enemy's battalion, and put them to flight. He fulfilled his vow; himself, his sister, and 3000 of his subjects were baptized: and though this conversion in him was only nominal, and affected no change in his manners, it was the means of establishing the christian religion in France. He died 511; his four sons succeeded him.

Clodomir II. was killed in battle, and his three children were brought up under the inspection of their virtuous grandmother; but their barbarous and ambitious uncle, having by artifice got them in his power, threw off the mask of affection, and sent a sword and pair of scissars to Clotilda, the guardian of their youth; the princess, in a transport of grief, inconsiderately exclaimed, "that she would rather see them committed to the earth than shut up in a cloister." Her words
were

were but too faithfully repeated ; and the youngest of her sons instantly murdered his two elder nephews ; the youngest escaped, became a monk, and was afterwards invoked by the name of St. Cloud.

Gifford's History of France.

COCKBURN, (CATHERINE) *Daughter of Captain Trotter, a Scotchman, and naval Commander in the Reign of Charles II. Born at London, 1679.*

IN her seventeenth year produced a tragedy, called *Agnes de Castro*, which was acted in 1695. This performance, and some verses addressed to Mr. Congreve, upon his *Mourning Bride*, in 1697, laid the foundation of her acquaintance with that writer. In 1698, she brought a second tragedy upon the stage, and, in 1701, a third tragedy and a comedy. She also joined about the same time, with several other ladies, in paying a tribute to Mr. Dryden, then lately dead, and their poems were published together, under the title of *The Nine Muses*.

But poetry and dramatic writings were the least of this lady's talents. She had a great and philosophic turn of mind, and began to project a defence of Mr. Locke's *Essay on the Human Understanding*, against some remarks which had been made upon it at several times, by Dr. Burnet, of the Charter-house. This Defence was finished as early as the beginning of December, 1701, when she was but twenty-two, and drawn up in so masterly a way, and so much to the satisfaction of Mr. Locke, that he desired Mr. King, (afterwards lord high chancellor) to make her a visit and a present of books. Though born a protestant, she had, when very young,

an

an intimacy with several considerable Popish families, and became a catholic for many years. But, about the year 1707, quitted that communion. In 1708, she was married to Mr. Cockburn, son of Dr. Cockburn, an eminent and learned divine of Scotland; and entirely diverted from her studies for many years, by attending to the duties of a wife and mother. However, her zeal for Mr. Locke's character and writings drew her again into public light, when she vindicated his principles concerning the resurrection of the same body, against the injurious imputations of Dr. Holdsworth. She wrote two pieces on this occasion, the latter of which was not published till after her death.

Her remarks upon some writers of the controversy concerning the foundation of *moral Duty and moral Obligation*, were begun in 1739, finished the year following, and published in 1743, in *The Works of the Learned*, inscribed to Alexander Pope, esquire, by an admirer of his moral character. Dr. Rutherford's *Essays on the Nature and Obligation of Virtue*, published in 1744, soon engaged Mrs. Cockburn's attention, and she drew up a confutation of it with perspicuity, and transmitted her manuscript to Mr. Warburton, who published it with a preface of his own, in 1747. The title of it runs thus; *Remarks upon the Principles and Reasonings of Dr. Rutherford's Essay on the Nature and Obligation of Virtue, in Vindication of the contrary Principles and Reasonings enforced in the Writings of the late Dr. Samuel Clarke.*

Mrs. Cockburn died in 1749, in her seventy-first year, and was interred at Long Horsley, near her husband, who died a year before her, with this short sentence on their tomb, "Let their works praise them in their graves." Prov. xxx. 31. She was indeed an incomparable

nable lady ; no less celebrated for her beauty in her younger years, than for her genius and fine accomplishments. She was small of stature, but had a remarkable liveliness in her eye, and a delicacy of complexion, which continued to her death.

The collection of her works, lately exhibited to the world, is a proof of the excellency of her genius ; but her abilities as a writer, and the merit of her performances, will not have full justice done them, without duly attending to the circumstances in which they were produced : her early youth, for instance, when she wrote some ; her very advanced age, and ill state of health, when she drew up others ; the uneasy situation of her fortune, during the whole course of her life, and an interval of near twenty years in the vigour of it, spent in the cares of a family, without the least leisure for reading or contemplation ; after which, with a mind so long diverted and incumbered, resuming her studies, she instantly recovered its intire power ; and in the hours of relaxation from her domestic employments, pursued to their utmost limits some of the deepest enquiries of which the human understanding is capable.

Female Worthies.

COMNENA, (ANNA) *Daughter of the Emperor
Alexis Comnenus,*

FROM her early youth, gave herself up to the study of letters, and employed her learning for the glory of her father and family. She wrote the history of his reign, from 1069 to 1118. This work is called *The Alexiad*. She has been accounted a partial writer ; but, as Vossius has observed, the matter may be well enough

enough compromised by supposing, that the Latin historians have spoken of a Greek emperor less favourably than they ought, and that Anna Comnena has been more indulgent to the character of her father than the strict laws of history would admit. The authors of the *Journal des Scavans*, for 1675, have spoken of this learned and accomplished lady in the following manner: "The elegance," say they, "with which Anna Comnena has described, in fifteen books, the life and actions of her father, and the strong and eloquent manner in which she has set them off, are so much above the ordinary understanding of women, that one is almost ready to doubt, whether indeed she was the author of these books. It is certain one cannot read the description she has given of countries, rivers, mountains, towns, sieges, battles, the reflection she makes upon particular events, the judgment she passes upon human actions, and the digressions she makes on many occasions, without perceiving that she must have been very well skilled in grammar, rhetorick, philosophy, mathematics; nay, that she must have had some knowledge of law, physic, and divinity; all which is very rare and uncommon in any of that sex."

F. C. &c.

CONSTANCE, (*Daughter of Conan, Duke of Brittany*) *Wife of Geoffrey Plantagenet, Son of Henry II. King of England. Died 1202.*

WAS contracted to him while they were both in the cradle, and, by her right, Geoffrey became Lord of Brittany. By him she had two children, Eleanor, called the Maid of Brittany, and Arthur, who was born after the death of his father. She afterwards married

married Ralph Blundeville, earl of Chester, who suspected her, we know not on what foundation, of an intrigue with John, his most bitter enemy. He demanded and obtained a divorce. Constance become free, married Guy, brother of the viscount de Thouars. She had by him a daughter named Alix, whom the Bretons, on the refusal of John to set free her eldest sister, elected for their sovereign.

In virtue of the feudal law, the king of France claimed the guardianship of the children of Geoffrey ; but since the cession of Brittany to Rollo duke of Normandy, it was no longer but an *arriere-fief* ; and Richard being duke of Normandy was its immediate lord, in consequence, laid in his claim for the same. Constance wished to keep it in her own name ; she took care to foment divisions between the two kings, and to put herself, by turns, under the protection of each. As Richard incommoded her the most, and was most to be feared by her, she took the part of Philip in the war relative to the imperial succession ; but did it feebly, and without any advantage to him.

On the death of Richard Cœur de Lion, he altered his former intention of making Arthur his heir by will, as he was by the law of succession, heir to all his possessions (excepting Brittany, which, holding from his mother, was not Richard's to give) and appointed his brother John his successor ; who was governed by his mother as well as Arthur. John and Eleanor would have consented to the partition of empire, and have left the French provinces to Arthur, which was also the wish and interest of the French king ; but justice would have given England also to Arthur ; and this partition was prevented by the intrigues of his mother, and the interest this young prince himself inspired.

The

The marriage, which soon after took place between Lewis and Blanch, of Castile, did not long cement the friendship of John and Philip ; and had not Constance, who was a woman of conduct and courage, died at the time when she could have taken advantage of circumstances, and again asserted the rights of her son, it is most likely he would not have fallen a victim to the barbarity of his uncle, or his sister languished all her innocent life in prison.

Rivalite de la France et de l'Angleterre, &c.

CONSTANTIA, *Daughter of Roger, King of Sicily and Naples. Born about 1147 ; died 1200;*

ON the death of William the Good, 1189, became heiress to these kingdoms ; and her husband, Henry VI. at the same time became emperor ; on which, after settling the affairs of Germany, he levied an army, and marched into Italy, in order to be crowned by the pope, and go with the empress Constantia to recover the succession of Sicily, which was usurped by Tancred, her natural brother, or rather, the grandson of her father. In 1191, he prepared for the conquest of Naples and Sicily, took almost all the towns of Campania, Apulia, and Calabria, invested the city of Naples, and sent for the Genoese fleet, which he had engaged to come and form the blockade by sea : but, before its arrival, he was obliged to raise the siege, in consequence of a dreadful mortality among the troops ; and all future attempts proved ineffectual during the life of Tancred ; after whose death the conquest of Sicily was effected by the aid of the Genoese.

The

The cruel and unworthy conduct of her husband, who, among his other mean acts, was the sordid jailor of Richard Cœur de Lion, seems not to have accorded with the spirit of Constantia. The widow of Tancred surrendered Salerno, and her right to the crown, on condition that her son William should possess the principality of Tarentum. But Henry joining the most atrocious cruelty to the basest of perfidy, no sooner was master of the place, than he ordered the infant king to have his eyes put out, and threw him into a dungeon; the royal treasure was transported to Germany, and the queen and princesses shut up in a convent.

In the mean time the empress was brought to bed of a son named Frederick, who, in his cradle, was declared king of the Romans. Henry returned into Germany, and, being solicited by the people to engage in a new crusade, consented, but took care to turn it to his own advantage. With the greatest hypocrisy he harangued a general diet, and with such solemnity, that multitudes from all the provinces of the empire enlisted, and he divided them into three large armies, one of which he conducted in person into Italy, in order to take vengeance upon the Romans of Naples and Sicily, who had risen against his government.

The rebels were humbled, and their chiefs condemned to perish by the most excruciating tortures. One Jorrandi, of the house of the Roman princes, was tied naked to a chair of red-hot iron, and crowned with a circle of the same burning metal, which was nailed to his head. The empress shocked at such cruelty, renounced her faith to her husband, and encouraged her countrymen to recover their liberties. Resolution sprang from despair. The inhabitants betook themselves to arms; the empress Constantia, at the age of fifty, headed

headed them. Henry having dismissed his troops, no longer thought necessary for his bloody purposes, and sent them to pursue their expedition to the Holy Land, was obliged to submit to his wife, and to the conditions which she was pleased to impose on him in favour of the Sicilians. He died at Messina, soon after this treaty, 1197, and, as it was supposed, of poison administered by the empress, who saw the ruin of her country hatching in his perfidious and vindictive heart.

After his death, Constantia remained in Sicily, where all was peace, as regent and guardian to her infant son, Frederic II. who had been crowned king of that island, by the consent of pope Celestine III. But she also had her troubles. On the death of Celestine, another investiture being necessary, Innocent III. his successor, demanded that Constantia should renounce several ecclesiastical privileges the kings of Sicily had been accustomed to possess, in the name of her son, and do liege, pure and simple homage for Sicily. But before any thing relative to this affair was settled, the empress died, leaving the regency to the pope; so that he was enabled to prescribe what conditions he pleased to young Frederic. Perhaps thinking it better to leave those matters to him, than to deprive her son of his protection, and subject the island again to disunion and anarchy.

Modern History.

CORINNA.

THERE were three of that name, all skilled in letters. The last lived at the time, and is supposed to have been the favourite of Ovid; but the most famous was of Tanagera, in Bœotia, who, in no less than five trials, conquered the great poet, Pindar. Her glory seems to

have been fully established by the public memorial of her picture, exhibited in her native city, and adorned with a symbol of her victory. Pausanius, who saw it, supposes her to have been one of the handsomest women of her age. Time has left us only a few scraps of Corinna's poetry. She did justice to the superiority of Pindar's genius ; but advised him not to suffer his poetical ornaments to intrude so often, as they smothered the principal subject ; comparing it to pouring a vase of flowers, all at once, upon the ground ; when their beauty and excellence could only be observed in proportion to their rarity and situation.

Notes to Ariosto. Anacharsis.

CORINTHIA, *Daughter of Dibutas of Sicyon,*

WAS the first who, by the shade of a lamp, drew on the wall the profile of her lover, which, when filled and raised by her father, who worked in plaster, served a long time in Sicyon for an example ; from which the art went on to perfection.

Abecedario Pittorico.

CORILLA, (OLYMPICA)

AN honorary name given to the poetess (improvisatrice) D. Maria Maddalena Morelli Fernandez, who was solemnly crowned with the laurel in the capitol at Rome. The facility and ease with which she composed extempore verses in any metre, and on any literary subject, had rendered her the object of universal admiration ; so that the greatest and most learned people thought themselves honoured in visiting her. Many
princes

princes paid her the most flattering distinctions; and the principal poets of Italy made her the object of their verse. Nor in extempore poetry alone was she famous; but printed a little poem at Bologna, in praise of the empress queen, and a great number of sonnets and little songs are yet in manuscript.

She came to Rome in the year of Clement XIV.'s death, and began to rehearse in public, upon any subject, either philosophical, poetical, or historical, that was proposed to her, with such select elegance of phrases, such variety of metre, sublime flights of fancy, and surprising celerity, that the instrument could hardly accompany the various sweet modulations of her clear loud voice. She was honoured with a crown by the Arcadian society, and gifted with the name of Corilla.

She returned to Rome in the autumn of the same year, after a summer's sojourn in Florence: when the same motive which had moved the Arcadians to crown her, induced the governors, at that time, to grant her a patent of Roman nobility.

The pope, in 1776, was requested in special audience, to decorate her with the Capitoline crown, and he granted the request, provided the same experiments were made with her as with Perfetto. They were reduced to twelve themes, to be proposed by twelve Arcadians. The most learned men were fixed upon to examine her in the presence of a crowd of nobility: and she was at first apprehensive. The violins began to accompany her; and whilst every one expected some exordium before thought of, she looked around terrified and bewildered, till seeing one of the society, a friend, enter, she began her song, imploring his aid. Then, as, reflecting and disdaining human, she invoked

divine assistance, and perpetually changing metre and harmony, performed her difficult task. The most honourable testimony was given by the examiners to her merit, and signed with their own hands. She was conducted by three noble Roman ladies, who were deputed, on the 3d of August, to the capitol, which was magnificently adorned and illuminated. Many noble foreigners were present, amongst the rest, the duke of Gloucester. Kneeling she received the crown, and was seated, with all usual honours, on the throne prepared.

This lady, who is since dead, used to compose in public for many years afterwards. When a subject was proposed, she called a musician, who played some air of her choosing, when she would deliver, with appropriate action, perhaps some hundred verses (sometimes in one measure, sometimes in another, as it suited her taste, or the feelings of the moment prompted. How they would look on paper is not decided, as they were in general spoken so fast that they could not be taken down in writing, and she was not able to repeat them but when the fit came upon her, which was in general in company. She was a fine and beautiful woman, with the marks of great feeling and good-nature in her countenance, but not irreproachable in her conduct. She did not live with her husband; and used to talk on moral and religious points, as if her conduct was without blemish.

CORNARO, (HELENALUCRETIA); *born at Venice,*
1646; *died* 1684;

WAS the daughter of George Baptista Cornaro, and educated in a very singular manner: for she was taught languages ancient and modern, and sciences, as boys
are

are, and went through the philosophy of the schools, thorny as it then was. After many years spent in study, she took her degrees at Padua, and was perhaps the first lady that ever was made a doctor. She was not excelled by any of the rabbies in her knowledge of Hebrew, and wrote Greek with great elegance, as her letters in those two languages preserved in the Venetian public library can evince. She was admitted of the university of Rome, where she had the title of Humble given her, as she had at Padua that of Unalterable. She deserved, they say, both, since all her learning had not inspired her with the least vanity, nor was any thing capable of disturbing that calmness of spirit, which she always employed in the deepest thinking. She made a vow of perpetual virginity ; and though all means were used to persuade her to marry, and even a dispensation from her vow obtained of the pope, she yet remained inflexible. She fasted often, and spent her whole time in study and devotion, excepting those hours in which she was obliged to receive visits ; often saying, when, in obedience to her father, she saw company, “ this will be the death of me.”

All persons of quality and distinction, who passed through Venice, were more solicitous to see her than the other curiosities of that superb city. The cardinals de Bouillon and d'Etrees, were ordered by the French king to call, in their way to Italy, upon Lucretia Cornaro, at Venice, to examine whether the report of her was true ; and they found that her parts and learning were answerable to the high reputation she had acquired all over Europe. At length, her indefatigable application to her books, to those especially which were in Greek and Hebrew, impaired her constitution so much, that she fell into the illness of which she died.

As soon as the news of her death reached Rome, the academicians, called Infecondi, who had formerly admitted her of their society, made odes in memory of her, and epitaphs without number. They celebrated likewise a funeral solemnity in her honour, in the college of the Barnabite fathers, where the academy usually assembled. This solemnity was conducted with the highest pomp and magnificence; and a description of it published at Paris in the year 1686, dedicated to the most serene republic of Venice. The whole city flocked together to see it; and one of the academicians made a funeral oration, in which, with all the pomp of Italian eloquence, he expatiated on the great and valuable qualities of the deceased; saying, that Helena Lucretia Cornaro had triumphed over three monsters, who were at perpetual war with her sex, viz. luxury, pride, and ignorance.

It does not appear that this lady was the author of any literary productions.

Female Worthies.

CORNELIA,

OF the family of the Scipios, and mother of the Gracchi, so excelled in knowledge and the study of the sciences, that she was generally praised by the most learned men, for her probity, wisdom, and philosophy; lectures on for which she read publicly in Rome. Quintilian says, “ We are much bound to the mother Cornelia for the eloquence of the Gracchi, whose unparalleled learning, in her excellent epistles, she

she hath bequeathed to posterity." Cicero says, in his Rhetoric, "That if the name of woman had not distinguished Cornelia, she had deserved the first place among philosophers; because he never saw such grave sentences proceed from any mortal creature as were contained in her writings."

A statue was erected on her sepulchre, with this inscription:—"Here lieth interred the most learned Cornelia, mother of the Gracchi: she was both happy and fortunate in her disciples, whom she instructed, though unhappy in her children."

F. C. &c.

CORNIFICIA, *an Epigrammatist, Sister of the Poet Cornificius, in the Time of Augustus,*

DELIVERED herself entirely to the study of poetry, because "science is the only thing which is not subject to the caprices of fortune."

F. C.

CORNUEL, (MADAME) *a French Lady, of great Conversational Wit, in the seventeenth Century. Died 1693; aged 67.*

COSTA, (MARY MARGARET) *Native of Rome in the seventeenth Century,*

A WOMAN of vast erudition, who applied herself with success, to various branches of literature, particularly poetry.

F. C.

COUDRAY,

COUDRAY, (M. DE LEBOURIER DU)

HAVING practised midwifery in Paris for sixteen years, employed her pen upon the subject. She afterwards settled at Auvergne, where she acquired the highest reputation; and not only gave her advice to the poor gratis, but instructed those of her own profession, and opened a school for the reception of young pupils.

She wrote likewise another treatise, in which she has given farther proofs of her good sense, her humane and benevolent disposition, in advice to those mothers who are willing to become nurses to their own children; the title of her book is, *Avis aux Meres qui Nourissent leur Enfants*. “It is an error,” says this sensible writer, “to imagine that a child which is put out to nurse, will love the parent with the same degree of tenderness, as if she had nursed it herself: and the means taken to wean the child, and make it forget its nurse, is the first lesson that is taught of indifference and ingratitude. The separation of children from their nurses is, to those of susceptible and tender dispositions, a most cruel affliction, and very often of ill consequence. If they are taken away a *second* time, they express but little uneasiness, having been already taught to disengage their affections. This proceeding makes children affable and unreserved in the world; but they love nobody: while those who are brought up always with the mother, continue their attachment during life.”

Mrs. Thicknesse.

COUVREUR,

COUVREUR, (ADRIENNE LE) *Daughter of a Hat-ter, at Fismes, in Champagne. Born 1695 ; died 1730, aged 33 ;*

ONE of the most celebrated French actresses, had the taste to strike out a new road to excellence, by following simple nature in tragedy. After having acted some time at Paris, she went to Strasburgh, but returned in 1717. Expression and grace supplied what was wanting of beauty in her person. She is said to have had all the intelligence, art, and address of Mademoiselle Clairon, with more sensibility. She was attached to the Marshal de Saxe, and from youth till the time of her death lived with him. This famous hero wrote to her once from Courland, to enquire some means of borrowing money for him ; and, without hesitation, she sold her plate and jewels, and sent him 40,000 livres.

With feeble health, and a taste for study and retirement, Madame le Couvreur found herself obliged to accept the invitations of people, who, as she complains, wanted to know her only from curiosity, and be presented to her because some people of distinction did her that honour ; or pass for impertinent and conceited. “ Not,” adds she, in one of her letters, “ that I want gratitude or a desire to please ; but I find that the flattery of fools is not so gratifying as it is common, and that it becomes a burthen, when it must be bought by reiterated compliances.”

F. C.

CRESILLA,

A FEMALE sculptor of early Greece, who having, in competition with others masters, to form seven Amazons
to

to ornament the temple of Diana at Ephesus, carried away the third honour, the first being given to Policletus, and the second to Phidias.

Abecedario Pittorico.

CRUZ (JEANE-IGNES DE LA), *a Mexican Nun,
and a Voluminous Writer,*

WHOSE poems are of great repute in Spain. They are famous for their sublimity, force, and erudition, but are thought by good critics to be inferior to her works in prose. It is said, many Spanish poets surpass her in harmony, but none equal her in variety and extent of knowledge.

Father Feejoo.

CUNITIA, or CUNITZ (MARIA), *Daughter of a
Doctor of Physic in Silesia; married, in 1630, Doctor
Liewen, a very learned Man. She died 1664.*

A MOST extraordinary woman, who learnt languages with wonderful facility, understanding the German, Polish, French, Italian, Latin, Greek, and Hebrew; was well versed in history, natural and political, painting, poetry, and music. But what she applied herself most to was mathematics and astronomy. In 1630, she published astronomical tables, under the title of *Urania Propitia*, which are held in high esteem; and her acquaintance was sought by the most learned astronomers, to many of whom she communicated memoirs of useful discoveries. She made verses with much facility.

F. C. Gen. Biog. Dict.

CYNISCA,

CYNISCA (*Daughter of Archidamas, King of Sparta*)
lived about 440. B. C.

WAS the first woman who entered into the Olympic games. She bore away the prize of the race, and the Lacedemonians erected a statue to her in their city.

F. C.

D.

DACIER (ANNE), *Daughter of Tanneguy le Fevre, Professor of Greek at Saumur, in France; born 1651, died at the Louvre 1720, aged 69.*

M. LE FEVRE did not intend to make his daughter a scholar, but he had a son whom he educated with the greatest care, and when he gave him his lesson, she sat by at her needle. The young man one day hesitated in his answer, and his sister, then about 10 or 11, prompted him what to say, though seemingly intent on her work. The father heard, and overjoyed at the discovery, resolved to take her under his tuition. She, however, severely repented her officiousness, being confined to regular lessons, and deprived of the amusements and employment suited to her early habits; but her reluctance was soon overcome by his commendations, which were such, that from a scholar she became a confidante, was consulted in all his designs, and an assistant in all his compositions. Her brother was seized with emulation, and they studied together with great success. She learnt Latin, Italian, and Greek; in eight years was able to study the last without a master, and began to be dissatisfied

tified with the translations made from it, and generally approved. She removed to Paris in 1673, the year after her father died, where she signalized her arrival by a fine edition of *Callimachus*, with the *Greek Scholium*, a Latin Version, and Critical Notes.

This work, which would have done honour to a veteran in literature, gained Mademoiselle le Fevre so much fame, that the Duke de Montausier, who then presided over the education of the Dauphin, insisted that she should be associated with a society of learned men, who were appointed to comment upon some Latin authors, for that prince's use. Her task was *Florus*, *Dictys of Crete*, *Aurelius Victor*, and *Eutropius*. The last was published in 1683, for she surpassed her coadjutors in diligence and activity.

Her reputation being now spread over all Europe, Christina, queen of Sweden, ordered Count Konigsmark to make her a compliment in her name; upon which, Mademoiselle le Fevre sent the queen a letter in Latin, with her edition of *Florus*. Her majesty wrote her an obliging answer; and not long after, another letter, persuading her to quit the Protestant religion, and inviting her to settle at her court. This, however, she declined, and proceeded in the task she had undertaken, of publishing authors for the use of the dauphin.

In the year 1681, she published a translation of *Anacreon* and *Sappho*, with Notes; which met with such applause, that M. Boileau declared it ought to deter any one from attempting to translate them into verse.

In 1683, she published a translation of three comedies of Plautus, in which she imitated, with great success, the sprightliness and gaiety of that author's stile; and, in 1684, two comedies of *Aristophanes*, with remarks. In

1685,

1685, she received a pension from the court. Two years preceding this, she had married M. Dacier, one of the scholars of her father, and son of a protestant gentleman of Languedoc. He had made so great a progress in his studies, and in the esteem of his tutor, that he permitted him to remain with him some years after he dismissed his other pupils, from which time the young Dacier and Mademoiselle le Fevre were inseparable, both in their studies and amusements, and at length conceived the tenderest affection for each other, which forty years living together did not abate.

Whether the large offers and recompences bestowed on converts of rank made any impression on them; whether they accounted the differences not weighty enough to justify a separation; or were led by a sincere regard to truth; they both at the same time declared, that their attachment to literature had diverted their attention from religion, that they were about to sequester themselves from company and books, and would retire for a time into the country, and there sedulously employ themselves in canvassing the arguments of the catholics and reformed. The result of their retired disquisitions, which lasted several weeks, was, a declaration for catholicism; the public profession of which, however, they deferred, till their return to Paris, out of tenderness to their relations, whose concern at their defection they judged would embitter that ceremony.

On their return to Paris in 1686, they began their usual exercises. *Terence's Comedies* were now began by Madam Dacier. Her critical eye could discover defects in translations which had till then satisfied the public. For four months she applied herself to the work, rising at four in the morning, and then, dissatisfied with her
success,

success, threw the whole into the fire. But she gave not up the undertaking, and with redoubled diligence began another translation, which was printed in 1688, and was well worth the great pains it cost her.

Hitherto this extraordinary couple had worked separately, and never united their labours. This was proposed to them by the president Harlai, their patron, who put into their hands the Moral Reflections of *Marcus Antoninus*, for a French translation, to which they added curious remarks, and a Life of the Author, which in a great measure makes up the loss of that which the emperor himself is known to have written. It was published in 1691.

Soon after, M. Dacier lost his father; the inheritance, though chiefly his concern, seemed to require a conduct of which he thought his wife more capable than himself. She readily postponed her beloved occupations to go to Castres upon her husband's affairs, and the letters she wrote from thence are said to be a surprizing assemblage of exactness in the detail of her proceedings, of the tenderest sentiments of love increased by absence, and of erudition in her remarks on what occurred to her in reading, to which she devoted her leisure hours. M. Dacier was not wanting to make the public some amends, by a translation of *Aristotle's Art of Poetry*, with Notes; and it was in that kind of solitude he formed the grand design of a new translation of *Plutarch's Lives*, intending to sound the inclinations of the public with a volume containing six; two he had finished before his wife's return, when they privately agreed to divide the other between them; and secretly entertained themselves with the incertitude of the public, and the diversity of opinions to which each particular life was to be

be attributed, the perfect similarity of their genius and talents having transposed itself into their very expressions.

Madame Dacier soon resigned this work to her husband, to give herself entirely to a more arduous undertaking, the translation of *Homer's Iliad*, which was published in 1711, a task that she executed with fidelity and exactness, but which involved her in disputes with many of the literati of that age, particularly La Motte and Terrasson, who disputed the merit of her edition. She answered the former by a volume intitled, *Des Causes de la Corruption du Gout*.

Madame Dacier had lost a promising son, her eldest daughter was gone into a nunnery, and her youngest, then her only child, died at the age of eighteen. Grief for this loss for some time suspended her labours, and prevented the *Odyssey's* appearing till 1716. It was usual with her translations, which are all in prose, this was accompanied with a very learned preface. When after appeared, *A Defence of Homer against Boileau*, his *Apologist*, who, she conceived, had injured him more than his opponents.

After so many labours, Madame Dacier had resolved to write no more for the public. She did, however, continue her studies, till she was attacked by a paralytic stroke, in May 1720. Three months after, a second deprived her of life at the age of 69. Her husband survived her but two years.

This lady, whose labours are so important and so numerous, maintained such a confirmed habit of industry, that she is said not to have gone out more than six times in a year; but after having passed the whole morning in study,

st received the visits of people of letters in the even-
in

ty, modesty, and fortitude, made her revered
by s of people ; and her benevolence to the poor
wa ounded, that she often suffered great inconve-
nie enying herself many of the comforts of life, to
suc unfortunate.

F. C. Guide du Traducteur, &c.

DAVID ILA, *a Greek Poetess, wife of Pamphilus,*

C composed Hymns, which were sung in honour of
Dian er the example of her friend and relation
Sapp held assemblies, where young women of
super understanding came to learn poetry and music.

DAVID ELIZABETH) *second Daughter of Sir
Thomas More,*

BOR ndon, 1509, was instructed in the learned
langua most of the sciences, by eminent masters.
She con ed with Erasmus, who applauds her for
her pur stile and manner of writing. She was
married very young, to Mr. Dancy, the son and
heir of in Dancy. What she wrote, and when
she died ot find recorded.

DANTE (MODORA), *of Perouse, in Italy, in the
End of the 16th Century,*

HAVIN t mathematics of her father, taught
her son, w vll as herself, was celebrated for his at-
tainments ublime science.

F. C.

D'ANOIS,

D'ANOIS (MADAME),

A FRENCH Lady, whose tales are ranked with those of Marmontel.

DAPHNE, *a celebrated Greek Poetess at the time of the Trojan War,*

FROM whom Homer is supposed by some to have stolen many of the grand beauties of his works.

F. C.

DARBACH, or KARSCH (MRS. ANNA LOUISA),
Born 1722, upon the borders of Lower Silesia, at a small hamlet, called Hammer. Died about 1780.

HER father, a brewer and alehouse-keeper, was the principal of seven poor inhabitants, but died when she was not above seven years old. Her grandmother's brother, an old man of good understanding, who lived in Poland, had taken her home to his house a few months before this happened, and taught her to read and write. To this uncle she addressed a poem, which is in her printed collection. She continued with him about three years, and then returned to her mother, who, it seems, had married again. The misfortunes which constantly attended her till she was near forty began at this period. Her first employment was the care of her brothers-in-law; but she soon quitted that, in order to attend upon three

cows, which were her parents' whole stock. The first signs of her natural inclination to poetry then made their appearance, by an uncommon desire to sing. She knew an hundred church hymns by heart, and sung them at her work, or whilst watching the cattle. Her inclination soon prompted her to write verses, but she did not afterwards recollect any part of that first essay of her uncultivated genius: which was accidentally assisted by a neighbouring shepherd, who, although separated by a small river, contrived to lend her a few books; *Robinson Crusoe*, the *Asiatic Banise*, a German romance, and the *Arabian Nights Entertainments*, composed their whole library. She read these works, perhaps as proper as any to keep alive the fire of the imagination, and to enlarge the view of fancy, with great pleasure. But this happiness was soon at an end, and she was obliged to return to her former attendance upon children, in which, and other laborious employments, she reached her 17th year. At this period, her mother provided her a husband, Darbach, a woolcomber, who obliged her to prepare all the wool which he used; besides which, she had the whole business of the house to manage, and could find no time to indulge her natural propensity to writing verses and reading, except a few hours on Sunday, when she wrote down the poems she had composed during the week. After having been married nine years, she was released from this drudgery by his death; but her mother soon engaged her to another, Karsch, who was much worse than the first. This was the most unfortunate part of her whole life, as with all the hardships of an unhappy marriage, she had still to encounter extreme poverty; but even in these circumstances nature
had

had a surprizing influence over her genius. She saw some poems, written by a clergyman named Schone-mann, who is well known at Berlin to have been at times affected, after a violent fever, with a sort of madness, during which he always spoke and preached in verse. Although the bulk of this extraordinary man's performances rather indicate a disordered imagination than the inspiration of the Muses, she found in them something which awakened her own genius.

She now became more desirous than ever to follow the natural bent of her disposition, and was at last encouraged by several persons to proceed, particularly by professor Meyer, of Halle, who was no otherwise acquainted with her than by having seen one of her poems, which were first committed to the press.

She removed to Great Glogau in 1755, with her husband and children, where she gained the liberty of access to the shop of a bookseller, and read much, but without any settled plan. The use Mrs. Darbach (as she always chose to be called) made of this privilege, appear throughout her poems.

The remarkable war which ended in 1764, and the king of Prussia's great exploits, gave new scope to her genius. The battle of Lowoschutz occasioned her first triumphal ode, and she soon after perused the military songs of a Prussian grenadier, some of Romler's odes, and Mrs. Unzer's poems. Her subsequent productions, on occasion of her sovereign's victories, plainly shew the effect they had upon her, and are proofs of a poetical genius already come to maturity.

She continued, however, still oppressed by poverty; but Providence was pleased at last to release her from a

very deplorable state, under which few would be able to support themselves.

Baron Cottwitz, a Silesian nobleman, who had long been celebrated for many amiable qualifications, became acquainted with her in the year 1760, as he was travelling through Glogau. He pitied her distress, and carried her to Berlin, where she became acquainted with several men of learning who were judges of poetry; her genius then shone with the greatest lustre, and she was much caressed at the Prussian court. In an edition of her poems, from the preface of which the preceding narrative is taken, written after this happy change of fortune, are a few remarks on Madame Darbach's genius, which we shall subjoin.

“ Plato, in his discourse called *Io*, lays it down as the character of a true poet, that he delivers his thoughts by inspiration, himself not knowing the expressions he makes use of. According to him, the harmony and turn of the verse produce in the poet an enthusiasm, which furnishes him with such thoughts and images as in a more composed hour he would have sought in vain.

“ This observation is verified in our authoress, who, without design, without art, and without instruction, is arrived at a wonderful perfection in the art, and may be placed among poets of the first class. It is from this cause she has been more successful in such pieces as were written whilst her imagination was warm, than in those which she has composed coolly, deliberately, and in leisure hours; the latter always bearing some marks of art, and betraying the absence of the muse.

“ Whenever she is in a particular manner struck by any object, either in her solitary hours, or when in company, her spirits immediately catch the flame: she has

no longer the command of herself, every spring of her soul is in motion; she feels an irresistible impulse to compose, with quickness commits the thoughts to paper with which she is inspired; and, like a watch just wound up, as soon as her soul is put into motion by the impression the object has made, she expresses herself in poetry, without knowing in what manner the ideas and figures arise in her mind.

“ Another and more nice observation of Plato’s is, that the harmony and turn of the verse keep up the inspiration. Of this truth likewise our authoress is a living instance. No sooner has she hit upon the tone, as she calls it, and the foot of the verse, but the words gey on fluently, and she is never at a loss for thought or sena-gery. The most delicate turns of the subject and expression arise in her mind (while she is yet writing) as if they were dictated to her.”

Of her extempore performances, we have an excellent specimen in that beautiful Ode, *Sacred to the Memory of her deceased Uncle, the Instructor of her Infancy, written in the Year 1761*, at a time when she happened to be engaged in company of the first rank at Berlin: it consists of eight stanzas of six lines each, of which the third and sixth have nine syllables, the others ten. It seems, whilst she was in this select party, she was touched, by a sudden reflection, with a keen sense of the great difference between her present condition and the early part of her life, and of the great obligation she was under to the good old man, who, by his tender care and instruction, had laid the foundation of her present happiness. Overcome with the sense of this, and with a heart replete with gratitude, she could contain herself no longer, but, before all the company, poured forth

the overflowings of her soul, nearly in the following words :

“ Arise from the dust, ye bones that rest in the land where I passed my infant years. Venerable sage, re-animate thy body; and ye lips that fed me with the honey of instruction, once (more) be eloquent.

“ O, thou bright shade! look down upon me from the top of Olympus. Behold! I am no longer following the cattle in the fields. Observe the circle of refined mortals who surround me, they all speak of thy niece's poems. O listen to their conversation, thy praise!

For ever flourish the broad lime, under whose shade I w^{as} wont to cling round thy neck, full of tenderness, like a child to the best of fathers, whilst thou wast reposing thyself on the mossy seat, tired as the reaper with the fatigues of a sultry day.

Under yon green-arched roof I used to repeat to thee twenty passages in praise of God supreme, though they were much above my comprehension; and when I asked thee the meaning of many a dark sentence in the christian's sacred records.—Good man! thou didst explain them to me.

Like a divine in sable vest, who, from the lofty pulpit, points out the way that leads to life, so didst thou inform me of the fall of man, and the covenant of grace; and I, all raptures, snatched the words from thy lips with eager kisses.

Thou inhabitant of some celestial sphere! behold the silent tears of joy; may they often roll down my cheeks. If thou canst speak, dear shade, tell me, didst thou ever conceive any hopes of my present fortune and honour, at a time when my eyes were successively engaged in reading, every day improving?

When

When at thy side on some rosy bank I sat, weaving into chaplets for thy temples the flowers my little hands had gathered, and looking up to thee, smiling filial love; Did thy soul then presage the good things that are now come to pass?

Mayest thou be clothed with three-fold radiance, and mayest thou be refreshed with the emanations of divine complacence more than the soul of thy companions! May every drop of temporal pleasure, with which my cup of joy overflows, be rewarded unto thee with continual draughts from the ocean of eternal beatitude!"

The complimentary verses on the departure of our queen for England, are pleasing and proper for the purpose. Some written on the death of Prince Henry of Brunswick (both of which appeared in English verse, in the Annual Register for 1764), contain the following beautiful thought:

" Thus, by a skilful workman's aim,
Late tow'ring to the sky,
A cedar falls, design'd to frame
An idol-deity;

Which soon the worship of mankind,
And incense, shall receive:
My hero thus in every mind
Immortaliz'd shall live."

We are sorry to see, in a later work, that Mrs. Karsch was suffered to languish afterwards in poverty and obscurity.

Annual Register. Picture of Italy.

DAVIES,

DAVIES (LADY ELEANOR), *fifth Daughter of Lord George Audley, Earl of Castlehaven, born the latter end of Queen Elizabeth's, or beginning of James the First's Reign; Died 1652.*

SHE had a learned education, and was married to Sir John Davies, the king's first serjeant-at-law in England, and attorney-general in Ireland, by whom she was the mother of one son, a perfect idiot, who died young, and of one daughter. Three months after the death of Sir John, she was married to Archibald Douglas, but was not happy with either of her husbands, on account of her pretences to inspiration, and the offence her publications gave, one of which at least was burnt by each of them. The first of her works which appeared had this fantastic title: *The Lady Eleanor, her Appeal. Present this to Mr. Mace, the Prophet of the Most High, his Messenger. Printed in the Year 1646.* It contains forty pages, and concludes with this anagram:

Reveal O Daniel.

Eleanor Audley.

She became acquainted, in 1625, with a Scotch lad, about the age of thirteen, who was called the Dumb Boy, or Fortune Teller, who, in a sort of whistling voice, like a bird, was supposed to foretel events, and to whom the Lady Davies shewed great favour. A great outcry was, however, soon raised against him as a witch or wizard, and he was obliged to leave the place, when, to confound his persecutors (says the lady), the spirit of prophecy fell upon me; then were all vexed worse than ever, ready to turn the house upside down, laying this to his charge.

On this, she laid aside all household cares, and conversation

versation with any one, excepting the Bible, in which she saw strange things, and fancied, from the above anagram (a species of fancy to which she was much addicted), that the soul of the prophet Daniel was infused into her.

Some fortunate guesses concerning events, particularly about deaths of people, which she frequently predicted, made many put great faith in what she said, and consult her in events, amongst whom was the queen of Charles I. But whatever opinion the queen might have of Lady Eleanor's prophetic spirit, his majesty appears by no means pleased with the use she made of it; and therefore, upon her taking a house at St. James's, sent Mr. Kirk (one of his bed-chamber) to her, to inform her of his displeasure, and, that if she did not leave off her "Predictions relative to his affairs, he would take another course. To which (says she) my answer was, I would take a course against him, namely, Sir Archibald Douglas, that had burnt my papers to purchase his favour, and that he and all should know shortly.

In the conclusion, Mr. Kirk said, he was not carried with the vulgar, but prayed me to tell him, whether the king should have a son or no. Unwilling to send him empty away, assured him a son, and a strong child; he not sparing to impart, accordingly solemnized with bon-fires, &c." But this spirit of divination proved very unfortunate, and involved her in great trouble and vexation; for having printed some more prophecies, and drawn up a very offensive petition, she was summoned by his majesty's order before the ecclesiastical court, in 1633, where her book was burnt; on which, she told archbishop Laud when he should die; and was fined three thousand pounds, excommunicated, no bible, pen and

and ink, or woman-servant, allowed her, but confined to prison for ever. She, however, staid but two years.

There are writers of no mean repute, who speak highly in her commendation. As for her character, there needs little more be said (says the continuator of Baker's Chronicle) than to repeat what has been delivered concerning her by the elegant pen of the learned Dr. Peter Du Moulin. "She was," says he, "learned above her sex, humble below her fortune, having a mind so great and noble, that prosperity could not make it remiss, nor her deepest adversity cause her to shrink or discover the least pusillanimity or dejection of spirit; being full of the love of God, to that fullness the smiling world could not add, nor the frowning detract."

The year before her death, she printed a pamphlet, entitled, *The Restitution of Prophecy; that buried Talent to be revived. By the Lady Eleanor*, 1651. The greatest part of the tract is very obscure, except the historical, in which are said very severe things against the persecutors of herself and her family.

Female Worthies, &c.

DEBORAH, *Prophetess and Judge of Israel*,

HOLDS the first rank among the illustrious women mentioned in Scripture. She freed the Hebrews from the yoke of the Canaanites, and governed them during forty years with as much glory as wisdom. P. le Moine remarks, that the Bible, which has not hidden the failings of the patriarchs, which has shewn the mistrust of Moses and Aaron, the imprudence of Joshua, the incontinence of Sampson, the fall of David, and the follies
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of Solomon, has recorded nothing of Deborah but her hymns and prophecies, her victories and her laws.

Josephus, &c.

DEBORAH, *Wife of Ascaliel, a Jewish Rabbi at Rome, in the beginning of the 17th Century,*

APPLIED herself to Italian poetry, and translated many works from the Hebrew into that language.

F. C.

DELANY (MARY), *the second Wife of Dr. Patrick Delany, a Lady of distinguished ingenuity and merit. Born at a small Country House of her Father's, at Coulton, in Wiltshire, May 14, 1700.*

SHE was the daughter of Bernard Glanville, afterwards Lord Lansdowne, a nobleman whose abilities and virtues, whose character as a poet, whose friendship with Pope, Swift, and other eminent writers of the time, and whose general patronage of men of genius and literature, have so often been recorded in biographical productions, that they cannot be unknown to any of our readers. As the child of such a family, she could not fail of receiving the best education. It was at Long Leat, the seat of the Weymouth family, which was occupied by Lord Lansdowne during the minority of the heir of that family, that Miss Glanville first saw Alexander Pendarves, Esq. a gentleman of large property at Roscrow, in Cornwall, who immediately paid his addresses to her; which were so strenuously supported by her uncle, whom she had not the courage to deny, that she gave a reluctant consent to the match; and accordingly it took place in
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the compass of two or three weeks, she being then in the 17th year of her age. From a great disparity of years, and other causes, she was very unhappy during the time this connection lasted. However, she endeavoured to make the best of her situation. The retirement to which she was confined was wisely employed in the farther cultivation of a naturally vigorous understanding; and the good use she made of her leisure hours was eminently evinced in the charms of her conversation, and in her letters. That quick feeling of the elegant and beautiful which constitutes taste, she possessed in an eminent degree, and was therefore peculiarly fitted for succeeding in the fine arts. At the period we are speaking of, she made a great proficiency in music. As to painting, which afterwards she most loved, and in which she principally excelled, it had not as yet engaged her practical attention. In 1724, Mrs. Pendarves became a widow, upon which occasion she quitted Cornwall, and fixed her principal residence in London. For several years between 1730 and 1736, she maintained a correspondence with Dr. Swift. In 1743, Mrs. Pendarves was married to Dr. Delany, with whom it appears she had long been acquainted, and many years entertained a very high esteem. She had been a widow nineteen years, when this connection, which was a happy one, took place. Her husband regarded her almost to adoration. Upon his decease in May, 1768, she intended to fix herself at Bath, and was in quest of a house for that purpose. But the duchess dowager of Portland, hearing of her design, went down to the place; and, having in her early years formed an intimacy with Mrs. Delany, wished to have near her a lady from whom she had necessarily, for several years, been much separated, and whose heart and talents

lents she knew would in the highest degree add to the happiness of her own life. Her grace succeeded in her solicitations. Mrs. Delany now passed her time between London and Bulstrode. On the death of the duchess dowager of Portland, the king, who had frequently seen and honoured her with his notice at Bulstrode, assigned her for a summer residence the use of a house completely furnished, in St. Alban's-street, Windsor, adjoining to the entrance of the castle; and, that the having two houses on her hands might not produce any inconvenience with regard to the expence of her living, his majesty, as a farther mark of his royal favour, conferred on her a pension of three hundred pounds a-year. On the 15th of April, 1788, after a short indisposition, she died at her house in St. James's-place, having nearly completed the 88th year of her age. The circumstance that has principally entitled Mrs. Delany to a place in this Dictionary, is her skill in painting, and in other ingenious arts, one of which was entirely her own. With respect to painting, she was late in her application to it. She did not learn to draw till she was more than thirty years of age, when she put herself under the instruction of Goupy, a fashionable master of that time, and much employed by Frederick, Prince of Wales. To oil painting she did not take till she was past forty. So strong was her passion for this art, that she has frequently been known to employ herself in it, day after day, from six o'clock in the morning till dinner time, allowing only a short interval for breakfast. She was principally a copyist, but a very fine one. The only considerable original work of hers in oil, was the raising of Lazarus, in the possession of her friend lady Bute. The number of pictures painted by her, considering how late it was in life before she applied herself to
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the art, was very great. Her own house was full of them, and others are among the chief ornaments of Calswich, Welbourn, and Ilam, the respective residences of her nephews, Mr. Glanville and Mr. Dewes, and of her niece Mrs. Port. Mrs. Delany, among her other accomplishments, excelled in embroidery and shell-work; and, in the course of her life, produced many elegant specimens of her skill in these respects. But what is more remarkable, at the age of seventy-four, she invented a new and beautiful mode of exercising her ingenuity. This was by the construction of a Flora, of a most singular kind, formed by applying coloured papers together, and which might not improperly be called a species of mosaic work. Being perfectly mistress of her scissars, the plant or flower which she purposed to imitate she cut out, that is, she cut out its various leaves and parts, in such coloured Chinese paper as suited her subject; and, as she could not always meet with a colour to correspond with the one she wanted, she then dyed her own paper to answer her wishes. She used a black ground, as best calculated to throw out her flower, and not the least astonishing part of her art was, that though she never employed her pencil to trace out the form or shape of her plant, yet when she had applied all the pieces which composed it, it hung so loosely and gracefully, that every one was persuaded it must previously have been drawn out, and repeatedly corrected by a most judicious hand, before it could have attained the ease and air of truth which, without any impeachment of the honour of this accomplished lady, might justly be called a forgery of nature's works. The effect was superior to what painting could have produced; and so imposing, that she would sometimes put a real leaf of a plant by the side of one of her own creation,

creation, which the eye could not detect, even when she herself pointed it out. Mrs. Delany continued in the prosecution of her design till the 83d year of her age, when the dimness of her sight obliged her to lay it aside. However, by her unwearied perseverance, she became authoress of far the completest Flora that ever was executed by the same hand. The number of plants finished by her amounted to nine hundred and eighty.

This invaluable Flora was bequeathed by her to her nephew, Court Dewes, Esq. and is now in his possession. The liberality of Mrs. Delany's mind rendered her at all times ready to communicate her art. She frequently pursued her work in company ; was desirous of shewing to her friends how easy it was to execute, and was heard to lament that so few would attempt it. It required, however, great patience and great knowledge in botanical drawing. She began to write poetry at eighty years of age.

Biog. Brit.

DESCARTES, (CATHERINE), *Niece of the famous Philosopher of that Name. Died 1706.*

DISTINGUISHED herself by her wit and knowledge ; writing, both in prose and verse, in a natural and elegant style. She was the friend of Mademoiselle de Scuderi. Some of her pieces are in the poetical collection of P. Bouhours—and the poems of Madame de la Suze ; but her chef-d'œuvre seems to be two compositions, in which she has raised a lasting monument to the memory of her uncle. The first is called *La Relation*

tion de la Mort de Descartes, part in verse, part in prose ; the latter, *l'Ombre de Descartes*.

Mrs. Thicknesse.

DEYSTER, (ANNE) *Daughter of a Painter at Bruges, in the Beginning of the eighteenth Century,*

DREW well, and employed herself in making copies of her father's works, which were often mistaken for originals. She was likewise a musician ; played on all instruments, but particularly excelled on the harpsichord.

DIANA, Duchess of Castres and Angouleme, Dowager of Montmorenci, Daughter of Henry II. King of France by a Piedmontese Lady. Born 1539; died 1619, aged 80.

IN 1552, her father married her to Horace Farnese, duke de Castres, second son of the duke of Parma, whom the king protected against the emperor ; but he dying in six months, Diana, then fourteen, remained a widow three years, when her hand was offered to Francis de Montmorenci, the eldest son of the constable of France : preoccupied by another passion, the young man resisted alike the entreaties and menaces of his father, and married the object of his first love, although a law had already declared such an union invalid. The constable applied to the ecclesiastical authority ; but, before sentence was pronounced, a sudden change took place in the heart of his son ; he disavowed his marriage, and became the husband of Diana in 1557.

Diana acceded to the measure only in obedience to her

her father. A man who had affronted her by a refusal, and who was guilty of such an act of perfidy, could not inspire any prepossession in his favour; yet she soon sincerely loved him, and her beauty and amiable qualities secured all his affection.

On the death of her father and accession of Francis II. the influence of the Guises prevailed; they were enemies of the house of her husband, who was afterwards recalled from England, by the execrable Catherine de Medicis, to be one of the victims on the day of Saint Bartholomew. Diana, however, on the watch, and fearful for the safety of one so dear, prevailed upon him to retire to Chantilly the evening before that horrible day. On the death of Charles IX. the queen began to fear the loss of her authority, and sought to secure the person of the duke before the return of Henry III. from Poland. She recalled him to court: Diana besought him not to go; recapitulated the reasons she had to fear and guard against her insidious policy; but he was not to be persuaded; he went, and was instantly sent to the Bastille; from whence it was long before he was delivered. He died in 1579, and his loss was deeply lamented by Diana, to whom he had been married two and twenty years, and who afterwards attached herself to the interests of Henry III. during all his misfortunes; making many journies to secure peace to the state. It was she, who, after the death of the duke of Guise, negotiated the peace between him and the king of Navarre. This prince, always duped by the French court, and always upon his guard, had so much confidence in her good faith, that he said: "Madam, if you give me your word that they will act sincerely with me, all stipulations are useless. I would sooner believe you than a thousand bonds."

The assassination of the king, her brother, filled Diana with despair. She confined herself to the castle of Chinon, in Touraine, and by his death became duchess of Angoulême : yet Henry IV. asked her counsel, profited by it, and when he was established in the kingdom, recalled her to court. He pardoned her nephew, a conspirator, in consequence of the high esteem he had for the duchess.

Lewis XIII. was the seventh king Diana had seen upon the throne. After so many disastrous reigns, he could not but be dear to the people, and she in particular beheld him with a mingled sensation of fear and joy. She presided over his education, and was witness to the tumultuous commencement of his reign ; but when he seemed to be finally settled, retired from court ; contented at the prospect of peace for the nation, and regretting none of the amusements of which her age and infirmities deprived her, but that of the chase. She cultivated the sciences to the end of her life, and a few months only before her death, repeated the whole of a play which she had acted a part in at the age of twelve. All historians praise her piety. Her house was open to good preachers, and she wished all her people and acquaintance to come and hear them. She never had but one child, which was by her second husband, and died the same day it was born.

F. C.

DIANA, or DIANA-MANTUANA, *a famous Engraver of Volterra, in Italy,*

Who by connoisseurs is supposed to have reached the perfection of the art.

F. C.

DICALZI,

DICALZI, (ISABELLA)

WIFE of the famous Guido Mazzoni, a sculptor of Modena, learnt, it is said, the art of sculpture of her husband, and formed perfect figures in *terra cotta*. She was celebrated by Guarrico and other writers.

Abec. Pitt.

DIDO, (or ELISA) *Queen of Carthage, Sister to Pigmalion, King of Tyre, and Wife of Sichæus, her Relation, who was murdered by her Brother on account of his great Riches.*

DIDO, detesting the execrable deed, and desirous to disappoint him of the expected fruit of his crime, lulled his suspicions to sleep till she had all things in readiness, and then privately eloped with her sister Anna, the flower of the Tyrian youth, and her most valuable effects.

After a long series of disastrous events, she landed on the coast of the Mediterranean, at a little distance from the place where the city of Tunis now stands. There, having purchased some land of the natives, she settled a colony of those who had followed her fortunes, B. C. 888. The natives of the country, invited by a prospect of gain, soon resorted to the strangers with the necessities of life, and such other commodities as were most wanted. Finding themselves always civilly treated, they gradually incorporated themselves with them, and became one people. After a time, the citizens of Utica also, beginning to consider them as countrymen, sent ambassadors, with considerable presents, exhorting them to build a city on the place where they first landed. This proposal being agreeable to the secret

wishes of Dido, and her infant colony, it was begun, and called Carthada, or Carthage, which, in the Phœnician language, signified the New City.

What Virgil has related concerning this princess, is only to be considered as a poetical fiction; since it appears that she lived at least two hundred years before the time of his hero, Æneas; and, at last finished her days, not, as he represents, a victim to love, but to conjugal fidelity, it being then considered criminal to marry a second time. Dido was courted by Jarbas, king of Getulia, who threatened her with war in case of a refusal. Her subjects also urged her to accept his hand; and she foresaw that she should either be obliged to violate her vows to Sichæus, or bring a powerful enemy on her infant colony. To extricate herself therefore from the difficulty, she threw herself upon a funeral pile, to which she had previously set fire, and that her subjects had erected, unconscious of the purpose to which she meant to apply it.

When we consider that a city, which soon became the first in arts and commerce, and the second in power, owed its political existence to Dido; that, during her life, she governed it with so much prudence, and, at her death, made so disinterested a sacrifice for its safety; we must class her in the first rank of heroines.

Alexander's Hist. of Women.

DIOTYMA

INSTRUCTED Socrates in Philosophia Amatoria, or how, from corporeal beauty, to find out that of the soul, the mind, and God.

Female Worthies.

DODANA,

DODANA, *Wife of Bernard, Duke of Settimania, or of Gotha, in the Middle of the nineteenth Century,*

WAS illustrious for her piety and talents; and composed a Manual, in Latin, for the instruction of her children, divided into 63 chapters, and full of moral and religious lessons.

F. C.

DSINGU, (*Empress of Japan*)

WHO accompanied her husband Tsiuu-ti, in the war he undertook, in 201, to gain the Corean peninsula. Dying in the beginning of this expedition, the monarch charged her to complete the conquest; which she did with great expedition and rapidity.

F. C.

DUBEC, (RENE'E) *Marechale de Guebriant,*

DISTINGUISHED for her wit and great talents; ambassadress extraordinary to Poland; an employment which she filled with great dignity. Le Laboureur has written her life. She died at Paris 1659.

F. C.

DUCHEMIN, (CATHERINE)

A FAMOUS painter, wife of Girardon, the Sculptor.

DUME'E, (JANE) *a celebrated Parisian Astronomer, of the seventeenth Century,*

WAS married very young, and became a widow at the age of seventeen. Nothing now prevented her from

delivering herself up to the study of astronomy, which she did with such success, that she published a work, in 1680, respecting the opinions of Copernicus, which was executed with precision and elegance, as well as force of reasoning.

F. C.

DUMONT, (MADAME) *Daughter of M. Lutel, Comptroller-general to the Duke of Orleans ; a French Lady, of the eighteenth Century ;*

MARRIED early in life to M. Dumont, a gentleman of eminence in the law. She published a translation of the *Odes of Horace*, and a *Collection of Pieces*, in prose and verse ; which were all well received. She was also an admirable musician.

F. C.

DUNOYER, (ANNE-MARGARET, MADAME)
born at Nismes, 1663 ; died 1720.

HER maiden name was Petit. She was educated in the Protestant religion, and seems to have suffered much persecution ; giving, in her memoirs, a long detail of the cruelties exercised on the Huguenots at Nismes ; from which she fled for shelter to Geneva, and thence to Zurich, in Switzerland. It is not very easy to give a just idea of the character of this lady. From reading her own account, one would be apt to think she was the most virtuous and unfortunate woman that ever existed. On the other hand, her husband, who, appears himself to have been an indifferent character, represents her in odious colours, and endeavours to set her

her in a most contemptible light. Which of these accounts we are to credit, is rather difficult to decide ; but the probable conclusion is, that Madame Dunoyer was not so good as she describes herself, nor so bad as her husband took pains to make the world believe.

After she left Switzerland, Madame Dunoyer made an excursion to England ; of which nation she gives a long and curious account ; and, upon the whole, a very candid one. Some time after, she visited Holland, and became acquainted with Voltaire, to whom she proved an implacable enemy. Her dislike arose from his endeavouring to convert her daughter, with whom he was passionately in love, to the catholic religion. Madame Dunoyer, who was a zealous protestant, highly resented this conduct, and forbade his ever visiting her daughter. He, however, persuaded the latter to consent to some stolen interviews ; but their place of rendezvous was discovered, and her mother, by some complaint which she made against Voltaire, obtained an order to have him sent out of Holland. This he received from the hands of a French ambassador, who commanded him not to quit his apartment till the moment of his departure. Upon which he wrote to Mademoiselle Dunoyer a letter full of complaints and murmurs against her mother.

This, and other letters in the same style, fell into the hands of Madame Dunoyer, who, of course, grew much more exasperated against him. She accused him, perhaps with great reason, of not being so much in love as he pretended, and even of copying some of the most tender expressions, in his epistolary correspondence, verbatim, from the letters of *Abelard and Heloise*.

She is the author of a *Recueil de Lettres Historiques et*
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Galantes, in which are interwoven the news of the day, and things which chiefly concerned herself.

Mrs. Thicknesse.

DUPRE, (MARIA) *a Parisian of the seventeenth Century ; surnamed the Cartesian, from her Attachment to the Philosophy of Descartes ; was Daughter of John and Niece of Roland Desmaretz.*

THIS learned man having remarked the aptitude of his niece to acquire knowledge, undertook himself the care of her education ; he remarked, that she avoided the ordinary amusements of childhood ; that she had a good memory, and soon acquired a complete knowledge of French literature ; on which he determined to teach her the dead languages ; in which she made a rapid progress, not only acquiring Latin and Greek, but excelling in poetry, rhetoric, and philosophy. After she lost her uncle, in 1653, she also studied Italian ; she held a correspondence with all the literati of that age, and wrote in her own language with the same purity and elegance with which she spoke it.

F. C

DURAND, (CATHERINE BEDACIER, afterwards Madame) *a distinguished French Novel Writer. Died 1736, at an advanced Age.*

THE titles of her works are, *La Comtesse de Mortane ; Memoires de la Cour de Charles VII. ; Petits Soupers de l'Ete ; le Comte de Cardomie, ou la Constance Victorieuse ; Histoire Sicilienne ; les Belles Grecques*, this is a history of the most famous Grecian courtisans ; *l'Histoire de Henri, Duc des Vandales ; Comedies en Proverbes*, and some poetical pieces, which are not worth much.

F. C.

E. EBBA,

E.

EBBA, (*Abbess of Coldingham, in Ireland*),

HEARING of an invasion of the Danes, who put every thing to fire and sword, and committed the most horrid barbarities, Ebba persuaded the nuns of her monastery to save themselves from the violence of these barbarians, by disfiguring their faces, so as to become objects of horror rather than of love. Persuaded by her eloquence and example, the whole community cut off their noses and upper lips. When the Danes came and saw them in this state, they were so enraged that they set fire to the convent, and these martyrs to chastity perished in the flames.

F. C.

ELEANOR of AQUITAIN, *Heiress of Guyenne, Poitou, Saintonge, Auvergne, Limosin, Perigord, and Angoumois. Died 1202, at the Monastery of Fontevrault; aged 81.*

ELEANOR was scarcely sixteen at the death of her father, and possessed of the most consummate beauty, elegance of manner, and vigour of mind. He had destined her for the eldest son of the king of France, afterwards Lewis VII. whom accordingly she married in 1137. Ten years after she accompanied her husband to the Holy land, where her conduct gave room for the suspicions he began to entertain; and violent dissensions took place between them. These were fomented by her uncle, the prince of Antioch, who had little respect

spect, any more than Eleanor, for the character and capacity of Lewis. He persuaded her to demand the cassation of the marriage.

Eleanor entered but too readily into his views; and the king did not oppose them. It is certain that her scorn towards him augmented every day; that she had a free carriage and a haughty soul; and that she was perfectly the opposite to her husband; who, on his side, had all the aversion such a contrariety of mind must inspire. She said, she expected to have married a king, but he was only a monk.

Lewis had cut off his hair from a principle of devotion, then in fashion; an act which made him ridiculous in her eyes. Lewis told her gravely, "she ought not to be witty on such matters." She answered by fresh railleries. In fine, he was as anxious for the divorce as herself,—which took place on the 18th of March, 1152. On the 8th of May, the same year, Eleanor elected, from her numerous suitors, for her second husband, Henry, duke of Normandy, and carried with her all her large possessions, though she had two daughters by Lewis.

The breaking this unhappy marriage, destroyed what the policy of Louis le Gros had contrived, and all the grandeur that the prime minister had promised to France. Eleanor made choice of a husband, who, by his ardour for pleasure and business, by the proud dignity of his soul and his brilliant talents, appeared the most different to her former one. "Who would not have regarded this marriage as a happy one," says Gaillard; "they were almost chosen the one by the other; an advantage princes rarely possess; and, as to political reasons, Eleanor had given to the most potent king in Europe, a third of France. Five sons and three daughters,

daughters, seemed to promise them happiness ; but violent tempests troubled their repose."

This Eleanor, whose conduct had forced Lewis the Young to a separation ; Eleanor, who of all people, ought not to have been jealous of a husband, had the misfortune to be so to excess. She could not pardon the infidelities of Henry, whom she persecuted in his mistresses, and by his sons. The famous Rosamond held for a long time captive the heart of Henry, who would never sacrifice her to Eleanor, but who could scarcely protect her from violence. Not less ambitious than jealous ; or perhaps, jealous only because she was ambitious ; Eleanor was indignant that Henry refused her the management of the provinces she had brought to him in marriage ; and pushed so far the effects of her resentment, that she forced him to take measures which were the source of misery to both. She fomented the revolts and discontent of her children ; who learned, in the French court, machinations to destroy the peace, and, finally, the life of their father. She wished herself to join them, and was discovered, in the habit of a man, attempting an escape, by Henry, who kept her in prison for some years. This severity, which appeared a criminal and scandalous ingratitude towards a queen to whom he had owed his greatness in France, without doubt, increased the number of the rebels.

After the death of his eldest son ; Richard, now heir to the crown, became the source of equal trouble and grief to his too indulgent parent, who did not yet lose patience, but, releasing Eleanor from prison, was reconciled to her ; and, partly by persuasions, partly by authority, a temporary peace was again established with his rebellious offspring.

Adelaide,

Adelaide, the daughter of the French king, was contracted to Richard ; but Henry shewed no impatience to consummate their marriage. Her father and intended husband pretended to be displeased at this, in order to give grounds for the continental war, which destroyed the peace of Henry's old age : and Eleanor accused him of being himself fond of Adelaide. A report even arose, that he wished to divorce the former, marry her, and, if he had children by her, would declare them his heirs. It is doubtful whether the troubles caused by his family, in reality, awakened this idea in the mind of Henry, or whether it was merely the jealous suggestions of the restless Eleanor.

After the death of Henry, when Richard was retained in prison by the emperor Henry VI. Eleanor, indignant at the indifference with which Europe, and the pope himself, suffered the hero of the crusades to be oppressed, wrote to the latter, and joined the bitterness of maternal complaint to the haughtiness of reproaches : but the pope, who had more to fear from the emperor than all the other sovereigns, refused to commit himself, by interfering in behalf of her son ; and no cardinal was found who would charge himself with this perilous legation : yet, at length, the princes of Europe, ashamed of their backwardness in favour of so great a warrior, forced the emperor to release him ; on condition of receiving a ransom, which Eleanor found it very difficult to raise. She had disapproved and repressed, as much as she was able, the revolts and misconduct of John ; but, on the return of his brother, interceded for him, and obtained his pardon. She is supposed to have influenced the will of Richard, who appointed him his successor, in exclusion of Arthur, the true heir ; and doubtless preserved a great ascendant over him, and a
great

great part in the government during his frequent absences. This made her favour the claims of John, as the continuation of her power appeared more probable under her son than her grandson. Arthur had a mother not less ambitious than Eleanor, not less accustomed than she was to command in the name of her son, and who would no less essentially reign in England than in Brittany, if Arthur had succeeded Richard. Eleanor possessed great influence over John also, and, as much as in her lay, counteracted his indolence and folly, by vigorous measures. In crossing Poitou, the young Arthur, who had lost his mother, learned that his grandmother Eleanor was in the castle of Mirebeau; he besieged and took it by assault; but she had time to take refuge in a tower, from whence she found means to inform John of her danger, who was then at Rouen. This prince awoke in a moment from his slumber; he delivered his mother, and Arthur fell into his power. The certain destiny of the latter is unknown; but he disappeared two or three days after the death of Eleanor, who had never ceased to be his enemy, but who would not have suffered her son to be the executioner of her grand-child.

Gaillard.

ELEANOR, *Maid of Bretagne,*

SISTER of Arthur, the undoubted heiress of the English crown, and the greatest beauty of her time, wasted forty years in Bristol castle, where she died, in 1241, having never been prevailed upon to recede from her pretensions to the crown of England.

ELFLEDA,

ELFLEDA, *eldest Daughter of Alfred the Great, and
Wife of Ethelred, Earl of Mercia,*

WHOM king Edward, her brother, made governor of that province jointly with her. Mercia was then greatly infested with the Danes, as well as other parts of England, and they were very serviceable to the king in his wars with them, especially in making head against, and preventing the Welsh from coming to their aid.

Elfreda wholly devoted herself to arms; and, like a true Amazon, gave proofs of her courage in all her brother's wars with the Danes. She was generally styled, not only Lady and Queen, but King. After the death of Ethelred, she took upon her the government of Mercia, and followed the example of her father and brother, in fortifying towns, to take away from the Danes all hopes of settling there again. Afterwards she carried her arms against the Welsh, and obliged them to become her tributaries. In 918 she took from the Danes Derby; and, in 920, Leicester, York, &c.

Elfreda died during this war with the Danes, leaving only one daughter, named Elswina, then marriageable. Ingulphus, the historian, says, "that, in respect to the cities she built, the castles she fortified, and the armies she managed, she might have been thought a man." She died at Tamworth, in Staffordshire, and was buried in the porch of the monastery of St. Peter, in Gloucester, which she and her husband had built.

Female Worthies, &c.

ELIZABETH, *Abbess of Schonaugia, in the City of Triers, in the 12th Century,*

WROTE in Latin many religious books; one entitled, *A Path to direct us the Way to God*, one on *The Origin of the Name and Invention of the pretended Eleven Thousand Virgins*, and three of Revelations.

ELIZABETH (QUEEN of ENGLAND), *Daughter of Henry VIII. by Anne Boleyn, born Sept. 7, 1533, died March 24, 1602.*

UPON that king's marriage with Jane Seymour, in 1535, she was declared illegitimate, with Mary, her half sister, and the succession to the crown established on the king's issue by this third wife. Her mother, at her death, had earnestly recommended her to Dr. Parker, a great reformer, afterwards archbishop of Canterbury, who had the care of her education, and appointed her such tutors as instructed her well in the principles of religion professed by the protestants.

She learned Latin and Greek, and made so considerable a progress, not only in those languages, but also in French and Italian, that at eleven years of age she translated out of French verse into English prose, *The Mirror, or Glass of the sinful Soul*. She dedicated this to queen Catherine Parr, by an Epistle dated from Asheridge, Dec. 21, 1544.

When no more than twelve years old, she translated from the English tongue, into Latin, French, and Italian, *Prayers or Meditations, by which the Soul may be encouraged to bear with Patience all the Miseries of Life, to despise the vain Happiness of this World, and assiduously provide for eternal Felicity*. Collected out of prime Writers, by the most noble and religious Catharine, Queen
of

of England. Dedicated by the Princess Elizabeth to King Henry VIII. Dated at Hatfield, Dec. 30, 1545, MSS. in the Royal Library at Westminster. About this time she also translated into English, from the French original, *The Meditations of Margaret, Queen of Navarre, concerning the Love of her Soul towards Christ.*

What farther advances she made in literature, Mr. Ascham signified in a letter to Sir John Cheke. "It can scarce be credited," says he, "to what degree of skill in the Latin and Greek she might arrive, if she shall proceed in that course of study wherein she hath begun by the guidance of Grindal." But she had the misfortune to lose this ingenious and learned instructor, who died of the plague in 1548; at which time, as Camden observes, before she was seventeen years old, she well understood French, Latin, and Italian, Greek indifferently, and was also skilled in music, both vocal and instrumental.

King Edward, her brother, who was fond of her, usually called her his Lady Temper, encouraged her studies, and she was no longer apprehensive of her father's jealousy in regard to her religious principles, and could read such books in divinity as she and her tutors thought proper.

Her next preceptor was the celebrated Ascham. With him she pursued her studies with great ardour, and read the best Greek and Latin historians, philosophers, and orators.

On the death of Edward, 1553, Mary ascended the throne; and having received many testimonies of Elizabeth's esteem, returned her some slight outward forms of civility; but the dislike she bore to her, either on account of her mother, or her religion, could not be long concealed: articles were devised and drawn up against her,

her, and her person, upon suspicion and surmises only, was seized and hurried from place to place : she was imprisoned, and most inhumanly treated ; but at last, by the interposition of Philip, Mary's husband, released from imprisonment, and in a measure freed from persecution the remainder of her sister's life. In gratitude for this piece of service, she had his picture placed by her bed-side, and kept it there to the end of her life, as an acknowledgment of gratitude to her preserver.

A priest, during her persecution, once pressing her to declare her opinion concerning the bodily presence of Christ in the sacrament, she cautiously answered him in these lines :

'Twas God the word that spake it,
He took the bread and brake it,
And what his word did make it,
That I believe and take it.

Mary dying 1558, Elizabeth ascended the throne ; and when she had settled the perplexed affairs of the kingdom, which had given a long interruption to her studies, Ascham informs us, that she began to renew them under his care and inspection, and tells the young gentlemen of England, in his *Schoolmaster*, “ It was their shame, that one maid should go beyond them all in excellency of learning and knowledge of divers tongues. Point forth,” says he “ six of the best given gentlemen of this court, and all they put together shew not so much good-will, spend not so much time, bestow not so many hours daily, orderly, and constantly, for the increase of learning and knowledge, as doth the queen's majesty herself.” And the famous Scaliger tells us, that she spoke five languages, and knew more than all the great men then living.

She was truly and substantially learned, having studied the best ancient as well as modern authors. The confinement and persecutions of her youth afforded scope for the acquisition of eminent intellectual attainments. How well skilled she was in the Greek, was manifest from her writing a comment on *Plato*, and translating into Latin a *Dialogue of Xenophon*, two orations of *Isocrates*, and a play of *Euripides*. Into English she translated *Plutarch de Curiositate*. Her versions from Latin authors were, *Boethius's Consolation of Philosophy*, *Sallust's Jugurthine War*, and part of *Horace's Art of Poetry*. With her general learning, Elizabeth united an uncommon readiness in speaking the Latin language, a talent which some very good scholars do not possess, though it was more frequent in that age than the present, which she displayed in three orations; one delivered in the university of Cambridge, and two in Oxford. An extraordinary instance of her ability in this way, was exhibited in a rapid piece of eloquence with which she interrupted an insolent ambassador from Poland. "Having ended her oration, she, lion-like, rising," says the historian, "daunted the malapert orator no less with her stately port and majestic departure, than with the tartness of her princely cheques (reproofs); and, turning to the train of her attendants, said, "*God's death! my Lords! I have been forced this day scoure up my old Latin, that hath long laid rusting.*" By her cotemporaries, Elizabeth has been highly extolled for her poetry, but this must be set down to the flattery of the age—yet she had a capacity for Latin versification.

We leave it to the more copious narrator to take notice of her translations from the French, her prayers and medi-

meditations, her speeches in parliament, and her letters; which last are dispersed in vast numbers through a variety of collections. Education and interest led her to favour the Reformation; nor could she hesitate on the subject, but acted with caution, not to alarm the adherents to popery by too explicit a declaration of her sentiments, and yet taking care to afford early indications of her favourable views to the cause, some of them displayed in a manner pleasing and ingenious.

At the time of her coronation, when she was solemnly conducted through London, a boy, who personated Truth, was let down from one of the triumphal arches, and presented her with a copy of the Bible, which she received in the most gracious manner, placing it in her bosom, and declaring, that amidst all the costly testimonies which the citizens had that day afforded of their attachment, this present was by far most precious and acceptable.

Elizabeth conciliated all ranks of people by that amenity of manner which Dr. Robertson calls her flowing affability, and secured their confidence by the spirit and decision which appeared to influence even those motives they did not rightly penetrate. When parliament met, she began to take measures for settling her own prerogative, and establishing the protestant faith as the national religion. Philip of Spain had offered her his hand, but Elizabeth declined the alliance. He espoused Elizabeth of France, whose queen, the beautiful Mary of Scotland, was supposed by catholics to have a better claim to the throne than Elizabeth, and had assumed the arms of England. A fatal assumption, which was the first rise of all those fears and jealousies, which at last impelled Elizabeth to an act that will for ever blot her memory, and entwined the system of her politics with

those of Scotland, in which kingdom she was more powerful than its sovereign, by protecting the protestant leaders. Cabals about the second marriage of Mary, after the death of the king of France, continued for some years. This was an important event to Elizabeth, whom the former soon wearied with importunities to declare her right to the succession, a measure that she felt pregnant with danger and uneasiness to herself, and which she could not be persuaded to take. To have chosen a husband would have decided the difficulty, and answered the wishes of her people, but many reasons made her averse to the proposal. She was skilful in governing, saw the beneficial effects of the system she had adopted, and was jealous of any thing that could interfere with her authority. A husband might be tempted to snatch the reins from her hand, his opposition might impede the freedom of her actions, and his passions disconcert the system of political wisdom which, by the means of Cecil and her other ministers, she had established. Yet Elizabeth was by no means indifferent to the homage of lovers: the archduke Charles, Ericking of Sweden, the duke of Holstein, and when she was more advanced in life, the young duke of Anjou, were by turns amused and disappointed; and she distinguished one of her subjects, Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, by a peculiar partiality. But Elizabeth, amidst the weakness of vanity, and individual preference, still preserved her understanding uninfluenced. When the great Sully, who came as ambassador from Henry IV. conversed with her on the situation of affairs in Europe, he was lost in astonishment to hear her speak with such perspicuity, promptness, and discernment, and was then convinced that she herself was the source whence the energy of her government was derived, and found that she had a per-
fec

fect knowledge of the political interests of the different European powers, of their respective strength, their relative situation, and internal resources, from whence she was enabled to judge of their means of attack and defence. He found, that although she had never conferred with Henry the Fourth, they both entertained the same design of forming a new political system, and laid the same plan of establishing a balance of power to check the aggrandizement of the house of Austria. We see no wild projects in the views of Elizabeth: her ambition was great, but it was also consistent.

That able politician, whom Elizabeth used to say was a princely, and not a priestly pope, Sixtus V. placed her among the three persons who alone, in his opinion, deserved to reign; the other two were himself and Henry IV. of France.

The hope of the protestants throughout Europe, Elizabeth felt that all persecutions of them militated against her own power. She protected the inhabitants of the Low Countries, who fled from the severities of the Duke of Alva, their Spanish governor, and in return, their skill in manufactures opened a way for a further influx of riches to England. She held her rival, Mary, queen of Scots, in confinement; and though the spirit and address of that unfortunate princess, and the activity of her adherents, were continually exercised in plots for her deliverance, which sometimes threatened Elizabeth with personal danger, she kept her own kingdom in peace and safety amidst the convulsions of a tumultuous period. The massacre of the Huguenots on St. Bartholomew's Day, filled her with alarm and sorrow. She had a powerful enemy in the king of Spain, but ventured to brave him by assisting his Flemish subjects with mo-

ney and troops, though she declined an offer they made of acknowledging her as their sovereign.

The pope (who had succeeded Sextus), with the powerful house of Guise, and Philip, were continually the source of danger to Elizabeth. Encouragement, and offers of protection from the two latter, and an idea which was then common even with the pious, that any heretic who was so declaredly under the displeasure of the former, should be considered as a wretch whom it was meritorious to extirpate, induced several to plan the assassination of the queen. The vigilance of her ministers discovered and defeated their plots: but the nation began to be anxious for the safety of their beloved sovereign, whose patriotic economy had secured them from burthensome taxations, whose safety was so intimately connected with their religious security, and whose concern for them had tempted her to break off a marriage with the prince of Anjou, to which she had manifested an inclination. These fears were encouraged in the people, and facilitated the death of the queen of Scots, on whose account the plots were laid, which endangered her enemy. It seems that Elizabeth, when Mary was first imprisoned by her subjects, meant to serve and protect her, which appeared by many spirited and earnest remonstrances through her ambassador. When Mary made her escape, and fled into England, she was still in the same way of thinking, and happy had it been for her fame had she persisted in acting from that principle; but her ministers saw danger in her favouring the head of the catholic party, one who had claimed a superior right to the throne of England, and who was the next heir. Elizabeth was startled and convinced, her temporary generosity vanished, and former jealousies resumed their dominion over her mind. She confined her as a prisoner, under the pretence that till she was cleared

of the crimes her rebellious subjects alledged against her, she could not be admitted into her presence; and led her on by insidious pretences to submit her case to the decision of the laws, favouring her enemies, till the injuries heaped upon the unhappy queen rendered it unsafe to act more generously towards her: her life really began to be dangerous to Elizabeth, and it was therefore sacrificed at the block, in contradiction to every principle of generous hospitality and justice.

Yet while the eye turns disgusted from the ungenerous policy and dissimulation of Elizabeth, it sees, with admiration, her undaunted courage and conduct at the apprehended attacks by sea and land of her enemy, Philip of Spain, who made such preparations for the overthrow of England as Europe had never before witnessed. Seconded by the chearful alacrity of her subjects, the inadequate preparations her country could at that time afford against his immense force was diligently prepared. She engaged the aid or connivance of all the protestant states and towns, and the liberal spirit of toleration which regulated her behaviour to her catholic subjects, made them also forget religious prejudices, and join heartily in defence of their country.

When the *Invincible Armada* was upon the seas, and in daily expectation of landing, she went to her camp at Tilbury, rode through all the squadrons of her army, and addressed them in a patriotic oration, in which she declared the confidence she placed in her people, that she was ready to live or die with them, and raised their emulation by the display of her own fortitude.

The entire discomfiture and destruction of these immense preparations, filled the English with joy, and made their sovereign still more dear to them. The power and riches of Spain, which by this blow suffered great diminu-

diminution, was still farther lowered by successful naval attacks; and England gained the importance which that kingdom lost.

After the death of the earl of Leicester, Elizabeth had much distinguished the earl of Essex, a brave and learned; but impetuous young man, whose mistakes and mal-administration in Ireland, occasioned her displeasure, and whose passions afterwards hurried him into a rebellion. The queen could not suffer herself to sign his sentence, till persuaded that he disdained all application to her mercy, and even then did it with reluctance and sorrow. Public affairs soon occupied again her active mind; nor till she found that she had been cruelly deceived in this respect, did the memory of Essex seem to cast a cloud over her happiness:—but the countess of Nottingham, to whom he had delivered a ring once received from the hands of Elizabeth, as a token of high favour and promised protection against his enemies, confessed on her death-bed, that he had besought her to deliver it to the queen, and implore her pardon; but that her husband, who was his bitter enemy, had persuaded her to keep it.

Elizabeth, though constant to her friends, and grateful for every manifestation of attachment, by her willingness to overlook injuries which her susceptibility and pride made her feel most keenly, had often fully shewn how little she experienced the comfort of sincere and consistent regard. This appeal to her kindness, though from one who had forfeited all claims, struck her with horror and remorse. “God may forgive you,” cried she, in the agony of her soul, “but I never can.” This blow was very deeply felt; and the discovery she at that time made, that her confidential servants, in expectation of her death, were corresponding with her
successor,

successor, sickened her heart. She had lost much of her popularity since the death of Essex, and feelingly complained that her people no longer loved her, and why should she wish to live? A deep melancholy took possession of her senses; she almost abstained from food; and, during the fortnight that preceded her dissolution, sat upon the floor with her finger in her mouth, in the last stage of bitter despondence, attending to nothing but the prayers of the archbishop of Canterbury, to whom she listened with the deepest attention, till a few hours before her death. She had named James, king of Scotland, her successor, who honoured her memory with a magnificent monument in Westminster abbey. She lived 70 years, and reigned 44.

Jealous of any encroachments upon her prerogative, Elizabeth appears to have really loved her subjects: affable, frugal, moderate, and skilled when to assert and when to yield what she considered as her rights: she maintained equally the command and affection of the Englishman and the respect of foreign powers. Her personal vanity was the greatest weakness of her character; but, when young, she was considered as handsome. Her complexion was very fair, and her hair of a reddish hue*.

Female Worthies. Hist. of England, &c.

ELPIS, a Lady of the Fifth Century, descended from one of the most considerable Families of Messina, and first Wife of the celebrated Boethius,

LIKE her husband, was devoted to science, and shared his literary labours with him. She examined passages and transcribed quotations. The same genius,

* She was called:

Spain's rod, Rome's ruine, Netherlands' relieve,
Earth's joy, England's gem, World's wonder, Nature's chiefe,

the same inclinations, and the same ardour, eminently appeared in both. Far from drawing him from his studies, she was sedulous to animate him, when he grew languid in them. In her all the accomplishments of the head and the heart were united. She had a fine taste in literature, particularly in poetry, and was a shining example of every virtue; so that she must have been a delightful companion to this eminent philosopher and statesman. Indeed, each are said to have thought their destinies equally enviable.

She had the happiness of seeing her two sons, Patrius and Hypatius, raised to the consular dignity, which their father had also several times enjoyed, but died before any of the latter's misfortunes had befallen him. After the death of this beloved wife, Boetius married again, and is said to have been equally fortunate in his second choice.

Ridpath, and Curiosities of Literature.

ELSTOB, (ELIZABETH) *famous for her Knowledge in the Saxon Language; born at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 1683;*

VERY early in life discovered a great propensity to study. Her understanding appears to have been of that slow but steady progressive species, which often outstrips genius itself in the race of literature. Her mother dying when she was only eight years old, she was committed to the care of Dr. Charles Elstob, canon of Canterbury. She afterwards lived with her brother, who encouraged and assisted her in her Saxon studies; but, after his death, was obliged, for support, to keep a small day school at Evesham, with
great

great advantage, doubtless, to her scholars, but with little emolument to herself. Some faint traces of her memory still remain among the inhabitants; and it is remembered that her weekly stipend with each pupil was, at first, only a groat.

What brought her to exercise this employment at Evesham is not, I believe, now known. After some years of laborious and obscure drudgery in it, she attracted the notice of Mr. George Ballard, of Campden, and several other persons of greater consideration; who raised for her, among themselves, an annuity of twenty pounds per annum. By degrees, her merit became known to the late duchess of Portland, who received her into her family, allowed her thirty pounds a year for instructing her children, and procured a small pension for her from queen Caroline. In this family she died, 1767, and was buried at St. Margaret's, Westminster. Her works published and unpublished are; *A Translation of Madam Scudery's Essay on Glory. Translations of, and Notes on, a Saxon Homily on the Birth of St. Gregory*, published by her brother; *Rudiments of Grammar for the English-Saxon Tongue*, 4to. 1715. *A M.S. Translation of all Ælfric's Homilies. An exact Transcript of the Sextus Roffensis*; with some Saxon Hymns, from ancient M.S. belonging to Salisbury cathedral. *A Saxon Homilorum* was by her undertaken, on the encouragement of Dr. Hickes, to which were to be added, an *English Translation, and various Readings*. Five of these Homilies were afterwards printed, in folio, at Oxford. *A Transcript of the Saxon M.S. of the Athanasian Creed*, printed in Wotton's View of Hickes's Thesaurus, 1708; *An Account of the Plan for rendering the River Avon navigable*, which was long handed about in M.S. and lately

lately given to the public by Dr. Nash, is said to be written by her, in the year 1737.

She is also reported to have left behind her a regular plan of Evesham abbey. Much merit is certainly due to this lady; the first female to whom the study of the Saxon language has offered a curious and laudable pursuit.

Hist. and Antiquities, &c. of Evesham.

EMMA, Daughter of Richard II. Duke of Normandy, Wife of Ethelred and Canute, Mother of Edward the Confessor, Kings of England.

ON the deposition of Ethelred, she sent their sons, Alfred and Edward, to Normandy; and Canute, who was jealous of the protection afforded them, to prevent their uncle's taking any steps in their favour, gave him his sister in marriage, and espoused Emma himself, by contract, securing to the children he should have by her the succession to the crown of England. Thus setting aside, not only the elder children of Ethelred, but likewise those he had had by Emma; who never forgave their mother for having thus sold them to the enemy of their father.

Canute had a son by her, named Hardicanute, who being also left king of Denmark, was absent from England at the time of his father's death; and a large party being favourable to his half brother Harold, Emma, who was appointed regent, and given earl Godwin, for counsel, found it very difficult to keep the crown for him, as her coadjutor, was secretly the friend of Harold. Seeing that Hardicanute did not appear, she proposed sending to Normandy for the sons of
Ethelred,

Ethelred, alledging only the natural desire of a mother to see those children from whom she had so long been separated. But Godwin saw clearly that the views and hope of Emma were to rekindle, by their presence, the love of the English for their ancient race of monarchs, and to secure them the crown, if her youngest son would not quit Denmark : he, however, craftily applauded her design, and facilitated its execution ; that he might immolate to Harold those important victims. But Emma, though unsuspecting of his perfidy, had the distrust of a mother. She never suffered the two princes to visit Godwin together, keeping one of them constantly under her own eye ; and only permitting the other to leave her under the escort of the faithful Normans they had brought over with them. Godwin, not being able to destroy both, sacrificed the eldest ; and Emma secretly sent back Edward to his asylum in Normandy. Godwin, furious at being disappointed, accused her of treason, and had credit enough to banish her the kingdom. Hardicanute, at length, came over, and all parties united under him, during his short reign ; when Edward the Confessor ascended the throne.

Emma, who was a woman of abilities, had so great a share of the government and so much credit at court, that the earl of Kent, who had enjoyed a great authority in preceding reigns, grew jealous of her. He charged her with several crimes, and the king, who was easily imposed upon, believed her guilty ; went suddenly to Winchester, the place of her residence, deprived her of all her treasures, and reduced her to the greatest poverty, so that she almost died of famine.

In

In this condition, she had recourse to the bishop of Winchester, to whom she was related ; but this furnished her enemies with a new handle for calumny : and it was determined she should submit to the trial of the fire-ordeal, in which she came off unhurt. And king Edward fell on his knees before his mother, begged her pardon, and submitted to be scourged by the bishop, as a penitent.

Rapin, however, says, that she spent the last ten years of her life in misery, in a kind of prison at Winchester ; from whence she was not delivered but by death, in the year 1052.

Rivalite de la France et de l'Angleterre, &c.

ENGLISH, ESTHER.

A REMARKABLE fine penwoman in the reign of queen Elizabeth and James. Some of her performances are still extant in several collections. One of them is very curious, it is intituled, *Octonaries upon the Vanity and Inconstancy of the World* ; written by Esther Inglis, the first of January, 1600 : it is done on an oblong 8vo. in French and English verse : the French in print hand, and the English in Italic, or secretary ; and is ornamented with flowers and fruits, painted in water colours, and, on the first leaf, is her own picture, in a small frame. At the age of forty, she married a Mr. Kello, by whom she had a son, who was in orders. From one of her pieces, it appears that bishop Hall, of Norwich, was her particular friend.

Gen. Biog. Dict.

ENNETIERES, (MARY DE) *a learned Lady of Tournay, in the sixteenth Century,*

PUBLISHED many works, particularly an *Epistle against Turks, Jews, Lutherans, &c.* printed in 1539.

ERINNA, *of the Isle of Telos ; flourished in the Time of Dion, of Syracuse ;*

PUBLISHED an excellent poem, in the Doric tongue, comprised in 300 verses. Her style was said to come near the majesty of Homer. She died at 19 years of age. She wrote besides several pieces ; a few fragments of which may be seen in the *Carmina novem Poetarum Fæminarum*. Antwerp, 1568, 8vo.

ESPINASSI, (MADEMOISELLE L')

A SENSIBLE female writer of France, in the last century, on *The Education of young Ladies*, and an *Abridgement of French History*.

Mrs. Thicknesse.

ESTHER, *Wife of Artaxerxes Longimanus.*

WHILE the whole nation of the Jews were in captivity, far from their native country, the wife of the sovereign had offended him, by refusing to appear before strangers at a feast, when he demanded her presence : and the king, having once divorced her, could not recal his decree, though desirous of so doing ; he was counselled to assemble the most beautiful women throughout his dominions,

dominions, out of which he might choose his future queen. He accordingly did so, and fixed on Esther, an orphan, of the tribe of Benjamin, who was brought up by an uncle, one of the principal men among the Jews. She was exceedingly beautiful; and messengers were dispatched unto every nation in that wide monarchy, to ordain a general rejoicing; while the king feasted the chief persons of the Medes and Persians, a whole month, on account of his marriage.

Esther was brought to the royal palace, and a diadem placed upon her head, without the king's knowing what country she was of. Her uncle, Mordecai, with whom she had been brought up, removed from Babylon to Shushan, being every day about the palace, that he might behold his niece, whom he loved as a daughter. An Amalekite, who, from his nation, was enemy to the Jews, and bore personal hatred to Mordecai, was in great favour with the king; and, by slandering that people as vile and seditious, persuaded him that it would be an act of policy to extirpate them, and in the end be beneficial to the state.

Accordingly a decree was given, and a day fixed for this purpose. Mordecai sent a copy of the proclamation to Esther, and besought her to petition the king. She sent him word, that unless her presence was demanded, it was death for her to present herself before him, guards always standing on each side of the throne, with axes to cut down such intruders: but desired him to gather all the Jews at Shushan together, and to fast with them; she and her maidens would do the same; and thus she would go to the king. She, accordingly, put on mourning garments, cast herself upon the earth, prayed and fasted three days; at the end of which, she changed her habit, attired herself in rich robes, and

and, attended by two maids, who held her train, went, with fear and confusion, into the presence of the king. But, on his looking on her with some sternness and surprise, she fainted ; on which he leaped from his throne and took her in his arms, bidding her be of good cheer, as that law was made only for subjects, and not for a queen. But her spirits were too much flattened to allow her to enter on the subject she intended : and though he assured he would grant her request to the half of his kingdom, she delayed declaring herself, and only asked him, together with Haman, the Amalekite, to a banquet the next day. Even then she put it off, asked them a second time ; and then when the king wished her to name the request, she told him of the plot to destroy herself and her nation, and named Haman as the author of it. The king was, at first, in some disorder on hearing his favourite accused ; but, persuaded of his vileness, he commanded him to be hung upon a gallows he had that day erected for Mordecai : and, as he could not revoke a decree, which, having once passed, the laws of Persia rendered irrevocable, he passed another, to encourage the Jews to defend themselves and slay their enemies, of which 75,800, chiefly Amalekites, perished that day ; which was commemorated among the Jews, by an annual feast, called Purim. Mordecai became a considerable person at court, and the influence of Esther considerably bettered the state of the Jews.

Antiquities of the Jews.

EVE,

THE mother of mankind, who suffering herself to be
 seduced

seduced by the evil spirit, to transgress an express command of her Maker, by eating of the forbidden fruit, which she likewise presented to her husband, was condemned to be in subjection to the latter, and to suffer pain in childbirth.

EUSTOCHIUM,

A ROMAN lady of great learning and piety ; a disciple of St. Jerom, whom she followed in his travels through Syria, Palestine, and Egypt, to visit places celebrated in the Scriptures. She became a nun at B  thlehem, and died 419.

F.

FANE, (ELIZABETH)

AUTHOR of several pious meditations and proverbs, in the English language, which were printed by Robert Crowland, with this title, *The Lady Elizabeth Fane's Twenty-one Psalms, and One hundred and two Proverbs*. London, 1550.

Who this lady was is not easy to ascertain. By the title given her, one would suppose her to be an earl's daughter : but it does not appear from Dugdale, Collins, nor any other who have given the peerage of the Fane family, that there was, or indeed could be, any such lady in it, near the time she is supposed to have lived. She was therefore, very probably, either the wife of Richard Fane, who married Elizabeth, the daughter and heir

heir of Stidolph, living in the latter end of the reign of Henry VIII. or of Sir Thomas Fane, who was engaged in Wyatt's rebellion in the first year of queen Mary.

Female Worthies.

FANNIA,

AN illustrious Roman lady, daughter of Petus Thrasea, and grand-daughter of Arria, twice attended her husband Helvidius into banishment, and was herself afterwards banished for his sake, that is, because she had desired Senecio to write her husband's life, and furnished him with materials for doing it; which she boldly confessed before her judges, denying only that her mother knew it. This happened under the emperor Domitian. The greatness of her soul was attended with such a sweet and agreeable temper, that she was as much loved as respected.

Pliny relates, that the priests appointing some ladies to take care of the vestal virgins, who, by sickness, were obliged to leave their convent, Fannia paid so much attention to one of them, her relation, that she fell ill herself.

FAUQUES, (MADEMOISELLE DE) of Avignon, in the eighteenth Century.

WHETHER Mrs. Thicknesse means that she was a nun, I know not; but she says, "who for ten years had been under the cover of a veil in a monastery, in which time her good sense having pointed out the absurdities of such a life, she quitted it, and resided at Paris," where she published many ingenious works: her best, *La Triomphe de l'Amitie*, was written in the

convent ; others are, *Contes de la Serrail*, translated from the Turkish ; *La derniere des Guerres-Betes*, a fable ; and *Abassai*, an oriental romance.

F. C.

FAYETTE, (MARIE-MADELEINE, *Countess de la*) *Daughter of the Count d'Aymar, Field-Marshal and Governor of Havre de Grace.*

THIS lady, who was in the service of Henrietta, daughter of Charles I. of England, wife of the duke of Orleans ; was one of the ornaments of the reign of Lewis XIV. and highly esteemed at court. She was universally respected by men of letters, and corresponded with the most learned of them, particularly the famous Huet, bishop of Avranches. Her modesty was equal to her other amiable qualities, for she wrote many things which were greatly admired, and permitted others to have the credit of them.

The elegance of her style, her taste, her refined sentiments ; but, above all, her adhering so closely to nature, render it impossible to read her romances, without being deeply interested. Voltaire says, " she was the first who ever composed one in which the characters appear natural, and not either over-rated, or such as introduced incidents, in which the most glaring absurdities and improbabilities were conspicuous ; as if the only end of the writers of such works is to raise wonder and amazement, instead of drawing a true picture of human nature."

The works of this lady are ranked with the first of the kind in the French language. The principal are, *Zaide* ; *la Princesse de Cleve* ; *la Princesse de Montpensier* ;

pensier. They are almost the only romances of that period which are still read with pleasure.

Mrs. Thicknesse. F. C.

FERREYRA, (BERNARDA)

A SPANISH poetess, much esteemed by Lope de Vega, who was well skilled in rhetoric, philosophy, and mathematics.

Father Feejos.

FERRARA, (RENATA, *Duchess of*) *famous for her Virtues and Attachment to the Reformed Church; Daughter of Lewis XII. and Anne of Brittany. Born at Blois, 1510, died at Montargis, 1575.*

IN 1527, was married to Hercules d'Este, the second of that name, duke of Ferrara and Modena. M. Varrillas assures us, that she was mistress of immense erudition, that she excelled in all parts of the mathematics, but especially in astronomy; but what he says of Calvin's journey to that princess's court, after having converted her from popery, seems at least doubtful, if not false; because there are authors who mention that event before Calvin went thither.

In the year 1559, her husband died; and, in 1560, she left Italy on account of her religion, and returned to France, where she was permitted to profess Hugonotism. She resided at Montargis, and there gave protection to as many as were persecuted, till she was obliged to do so no longer. It was with much regret that she yielded to so rigorous a restraint; and, if her courage appeared on this occasion, her charity was no less conspicuous; for, during the troubles in France, she fed

and maintained a great number of protestants in her castle, who had fled to her for refuge. She interceded strongly for the prince of Condé, when he was imprisoned at Orleans in the time of the young king Francis; but afterwards was displeased with him, because neither she nor her ministers approved the protestants taking up arms.

Female Worthies.

FIDELIS (CASSANDRA), *a Venetian Lady, Died*
1558, *aged* 100.

DESCENDED from ancestors who had changed their residence from Milan to Venice, and had uniformly added to the respectability of their rank by their uncommon learning, she began at an early age to prosecute her studies with great diligence, and acquired such a knowledge of the learned languages, that she may with justice be enumerated among the first scholars of the age.

The letters which occasionally passed between Cassandra and Politian, demonstrate their mutual esteem, if indeed such an expression be sufficient to characterize the feelings of Politian, who expresses, in language unusually florid, his high admiration of her extraordinary acquirements, and his expectation of the benefits which the cause of letters would derive from her labours and example. In the year 1491, the Florentine scholar made a visit to Venice, where the favourable opinion he had formed of her writings was confirmed by a personal interview.

“ Yesterday,” says he, writing to his great patron Lorenzo de Medicis, “ I paid a visit to the celebrated Cassandra, to whom I presented your respects. She is
indeed,

indeed, Lorenzo, a surprizing woman, as well from her acquirements in her own language, as in the Latin; and, in my opinion, she may be called handsome. I left her, astonished at her talents. She is much devoted to your interest, and speaks of you with great esteem. She even avows her intention of visiting you at Florence, so that you may prepare yourself to give her a proper reception."

From a letter of this lady's many years afterwards to Leo X. we learn, that an epistolary correspondence had subsisted between her and Lorenzo de Medicis; and it is with concern we find, that the remembrance of this intercourse was revived, in order to induce the pontiff to bestow upon her some pecuniary assistance, she being then a widow, with a numerous train of dependants. She lived, however, to a far more advanced period, and her literary acquirements, and the reputation of her early associates, threw a lustre over her declining years; and, as her memory remained unimpaired to the last, she was resorted to from all parts of Italy as a living monument of those happier days to which the Italians never reverted without regret. The letters and orations of this lady were published at Pavia in 1636, with some account of her life. She wrote a volume of Latin poems also, on various subjects.

She is thus spoken of by M. Thomas, in his *Essay on Women*:

"One of the most learned women in Italy, who wrote equally well in the three languages of Homer, Virgil, and Dante, in verse and in prose; who possessed all the philosophy of her own and the preceding ages; who, by her graces, embellished even theology; sustained theses with eclat, and many times gave public lessons at
Padua;

Padua; who joined to her serious knowledge agreeable talents, particularly music, and exalted her talents by her virtue. She received homage from sovereign pontiffs and kings; and, that every thing relating to her might be singular, lived more than a century."

Roscoe's *Life of Lorenzo de Medicis*, &c.

FIELDING (SARAH), *Half-Sister to the famous Novellist of that Name, who encouraged her in her literary Pursuits,*

WROTE several works, which possessed wit, invention, and originality; amongst others, *David Simple*; *Ophelia*. A work on Education; a translation of *Xenophon's Memorabilia*; the *Lives of Cleopatra and Octavia*, and a dramatic novel called *the Cry*. Her brother wrote a preface to the first, in which he exalts her power of delineating character, by comparing her to Shakespear, and praises her amiable qualities.

FISHER, MARY *a Quaker of the last Century,*

WHO formed the project of visiting Constantinople, to convert the grand seignior. On her arrival at Smyrna, the English consul sent her to Venice. She then went all the way by land, and actually appeared before the sultan Mahomet IV. who heard her patiently, and, then supposing her to be mad, caused her to be sent back to her own country, where she married a preacher of the same sect. This couple afterwards went into Languedoc, to preach the tenets of quakerism among the protestants of that province.

F. C. &c.

FLEURS (PHILIBERTE DE), *a Poetess of Tours in the 16th Century.*

FOIX,

FOIX (MARGARET DE), *Duchess d'Epemon.*

IN 1588, the chiefs of the League determining to ruin the duke d'Epemon, rendered him suspected at court, and obtained an order to take him from the castle of Angoulême, of which he was governor. The magistrate charged with the execution of this act, to obtain his purpose in forcing the duke to surrender, seized the duchess, and conducted her to the principal gate of the citadel, in order that she might entreat him to acquiesce, or that her danger might lead him to submit.

Careless of their threats, she exhorted her husband to persevere in defending himself; declaring, that if he yielded on her account, it would occasion his death, and she was determined not to survive him whom she loved more than life itself. The magistrate, astonished at her courage, deliberated what to do, when she was rescued from them, and re-entered the castle in triumph to her husband, who received her with transports of joy.

F. C.

FONTANA (LAVINIA), *an Italian Painter and Statuary of great Excellence, Daughter and Disciple of Prospero, a Painter at Bologna. Born 1552.*

HER colouring was so soft and sweet, that she was much sought after to draw portraits of ladies. After having worked in public and private, she went to Rome, where she served Gregory XIII. and the noble family of Boncompagni, who all protected and encouraged her. Amongst other paintings, she made one of the Stoning of St. Stephen, with figures larger than life, which was placed in the church of St. Paul, in the environs of Rome, where she died at the age of fifty, celebrated by orators and poets. She is said, in statuary, to have surpassed even the famous Propertia de Rossi.

Abecedario Pittorico, Father Feejoo.

FON-

FONTAINES (THE COUNTESS DE), *Daughter of the Marquis de Givri, Commander of Metz, and Wife of the Count de Fontaines, by whom she had two Children. Died 1748.*

WAS the author of two little romances, *Amenophis*, and *La Comtesse de Savoye*, which have much merit, and were highly praised by Voltaire, whom they furnished with subjects for two of his most celebrated tragedies, *Artemise* and *Tancred*.

Mrs. Thicknesse.

FONTAINE (JANE DE LA). *Died 1536.*

La Theseide de Boccace was translated into French verse by this lady. It was never printed, but is applauded by Joannus Secundus.

Wharton's History of English Poetry.

FONTAINE (MADAME DE LA), *Wife of the celebrated French Poet,*

WAS a woman of taste and knowledge, and corrected the works of her husband before they were published.

F. C.

FORCE (CHARLOTTE-ROSE DE CAUMONT DE LA), *born in Guienne, 1650, died at Paris, 1724;*

HAS given many works to the public, full of sentiment and imagination, chiefly romances, which are written in a pleasant stile, *Histoire de Marguerite de Valois,*

lois, De Gustave Vasa, De Bourgogne, De la Duchesse de Bar, Sœur de Henry IV. Les Fees, Conte de Contes, and many pieces of poetry.

F. C. &c.

FREDEGONDA, Married A. D. 566, to *Chilperic I. King of Part of France, suspected of the Murder of his first Wife. After her Husband's death, became Regent during the minority of Clotaire II.*

A VILE character, infamous for her amours and her cruelties, possessed the regal power many years. A crown, procured to her at first by her charms, was preserved by the strength of her genius. She had governed during Clotaire's minority with consummate policy, had rendered her regency illustrious by victories, and had conquered and secured Paris to her son. All these achievements are unequivocal proofs of vigour and talent, and almost made her subjects forget that she was ambitious, cruel, vindictive; that she had sacrificed to her ambition or safety, one great king, two virtuous queens, two heirs apparent to the throne, and an infinite number of inferior quality. In this moment of triumph, when her arms were crowned with victory, God called her hence, as if apprehensive the enormity of her crimes would by unthinking mortals be sunk in the splendor of her exploits.

Gifford's France.

FRITIGILA, became famous, A. D. 396.

QUEEN of the Marcomans, being instructed in christianity by the writings of Ambrose, embraced it herself, and by her influence, occasioned her husband and the

the whole nation to do the same. By her persuasion, they entered into a durable alliance with the Romans ; so that, in the various irruptions of the barbarians on the empire, the Marcomans are never mentioned by historians, though only separated by the Danube.

Gifford's France.

FULVIA, *Wife to Marc Antony, who had married twice before; first to Clodius, the great enemy of Cicero; secondly to Curio, who was killed in Africa, fighting on Cæsar's side, before the Battle of Pharsalia.*

AFTER the victory gained at Philippi by Octavius and Antony, the latter went into Asia to settle the affairs of the east, and Octavius returned to Rome, where, happening to quarrel with Fulvia, she took arms against him; and was not satisfied with retiring to Præneste, and drawing thither the knights and senators of her party, but armed herself in person, gave the word to the soldiers, and harangued them.

“ She was a woman,” says Plutarch, “ not born for spinning or housewifry, nor one that could be content with the power of ruling a private husband; but a lady capable of advising a magistrate, and of ruling the general of an army, so that Cleopatra had great obligations to her, for having taught Antony to be obedient.” Antony, however, upbraided her so bitterly for entering into this war, that she went into Greece, where she contracted a disease through the violence of her anger, of which she died. During the massacres committed by the triumvirate on the great and leading men of the city, in which her husband was a principal actor, Fulvia assisted him to the utmost of her power. She put several

ral

ral persons to death of her own accord, to gratify either her avarice or revenge. Antony caused the heads of the principal to be set on a table before him, that he might feast his eyes with the sight. Amongst them was that of Cicero, which he ordered to be fixed on the rostrum, where that great orator had often so gloriously defended his country; but first, Fulvia took the head, spat upon it, and placing it on her lap, drew out the tongue, which she pierced several times with her bodkin, uttering all the while the most opprobrious and reviling language. “Behold,” says Mr. Bayle, “a woman of a strange species. There are some villains whom we are almost forced to admire, because they shew a certain greatness of soul in their crimes; here is nothing to be seen but brutality, baseness, and cowardice, and one cannot help conceiving an indignation full of contempt.”

Female Worthies.

G.

GAILLARDE (JANE) *a Poetess of Lyons in the 16th century.*

GALERIA, *Wife of Vitellius, Emperor of Rome,*

DISTINGUISHED herself in a vicious age by exemplary wisdom and modesty. After the tragical death of her husband, she passed her days in mourning and retirement.

F. C.

GALLI

GALLI (MARIA ORIANA), *a Female Painter of repute,*

DAUGHTER and disciple of Gio. Maria Galli, commonly called Bibiena.

Abecedario Pittorico.

GALLIGAI (LEONORA), *Daughter of a Joiner at Florence, and of the Nurse of Mary de Medicis. Died 1617.*

THAT princess loving her tenderly, took her into France in 1606, when she went thither to be married to Henry IV. she was made her bedchamber-woman, and governed her just as she pleased. Extremely ugly, but possessed of a great deal of wit and artifice, she married Concino Concini, afterwards marshal d'Ancre, who was also a native of Florence, and came into France with Mary de Medicis. He was at first only gentleman in ordinary to that princess, but afterwards, by means of his wife, raised himself to great honours. They agreed in fomenting the discord between the king and queen, and their artifices were the causes of the domestic jars which embittered the life of Henry. After the death of that prince, they found it still more easy to govern their mistress; and were so puffed up with pride, that Leonora would not allow the princes, princesses, and greatest lords of the kingdom, to come into their chamber, or suffer any one to look at her, saying, "that people frightened her when they stared upon her, and that they might bewitch her by looking in her face." Soon after the death of Henry IV. their power and arrogance grew more and more excessive, till Lewis XIII. commissioned

missioned a captain of the guards to dispatch Concini in 1517. The day after his burial, his body was torn out of his grave by the mob, who used it in the most ignominious manner.

Leonora received the news of her husband's catastrophe in a manner which shewed them to be more united by interest than affection. She did not shed a tear, and her first care was to secure her jewels; for which purpose she put them into the netting of her bed, and causing herself to be undressed, got in it; but the provost's men, who went into her chamber to search for them, made her get up, and found them. After which, she said to those who guarded her, "Well, they have killed my husband, does not that satisfy them? Let me be permitted to leave the kingdom." When she was told they had hung up his body, she seemed somewhat moved, but without weeping; and, presently after, said, that he was a very presumptuous insolent man, and that to get rid of him, she had determined to retire into Italy that spring, and had prepared every thing for her journey; behaving with great confidence, as if she apprehended no danger. But she was carried to the Bastile, and afterwards committed to the Conciergerie, or prison of the parliament, by which court she was tried, and condemned to be beheaded and burnt to ashes, which sentence she underwent with great constancy.

It was pretended, that both she and her husband had not only judaized, but likewise practised magic arts, which at that time, as well as astrology, were mightily in vogue in France. But on her being questioned by counsellor Courtin concerning the kind of sorcery she had used, to influence the will of Mary de Medicis, she answered,

answered, that “ she had used that power only which great minds always have over weak ones.”

Female Worthies.

GAZZONI (JOHANNA), *a famous Italian Painter.*

THERE are, particularly at Rome, many of her works, which are held in high estimation.

Abec. P. tt.

GENEBRIA, *a Woman of Verona, lived in the time of Pius II.*

COMPOSED many elegant epistles, “ polished both with high conceits and judgment: she pronounced with a sharp and loud voice, a becoming gesture, and a fecundous suavity.”

GENEVIEVE, *a Patron Saint at Paris, born at Nantes about 419,*

Is said to have succoured the inhabitants of Paris during a terrible famine, by procuring many large vessels full of wheat, which she distributed among them. At that time nuns were not confined to monasteries, but lived in their own families—Genevieve was one of these. Miracles were attributed to her after her death.

F. C.

GENMEI and **GENSIOO**, *Empresses of Japan,*

FAMOUS for their wisdom and prudence. The former came to the empire in 708, reigned seven years, and gave

gave names to the provinces, cities, and villages, which were marked down in the public registers. The latter came to the throne in 715, and reigned nine years, when she resigned the crown to her nephew, and lived in a private station for twenty-five years, when she died, aged 48.

GENTILESCHI (ARTEMISIA), *Daughter of Oratio Gentileschi, an Artist of great repute in Historical and Portrait Painting, Native of Pisa.*

SHE excelled her father in the latter, and was but little inferior to him in historical pictures. She lived for the most part at Naples in great splendor, and was as famous all over Europe for her gallantry, as for her talents.

Fresnoy's Art of Painting.

GEOFFREYN (MADAME), *a Parisian Lady of Talents,*

WHO employed her great riches to succour misfortune and protect the learned, by whom she was much esteemed. Her fame was spread all over Europe, and even crowned heads sought to honour her by public marks of respect. She died 1777.

F. C.

GERARD (MADAME), *a most excellent Painter.*

GERMAIN (MADAME DE SAINT), *a French Lady of Genius,*

WHO took infinite pains to read and well understand the British authors; and, if we may judge by the man-

ner in which she points out their different excellencies, with good success.

Madame de Saint Germain was born at Paris, and lived there, greatly respected by persons of learning and condition. She seems, in respect to her disposition, very unlike the generality of her countrywomen, being rather of a melancholy contemplative turn, and consequently fond of retirement.

Her writings abound with sentiment and good sense. I find only the title of one of them in Mrs. Thicknesse; *Henry and Emilia*.

GETHIN, (LADY GRACE) *Daughter of Sir George Norton, of Abbots-Langley, Somersetshire, Knight and Baronet, and Wife of Sir Richard Gethin, of Gethin-Grot, in Ireland. Born 1676; died 1697, aged 21;*

HER mother, a lady of piety, gave her all the advantages of a liberal education; and the quick advances she made in knowledge, were an ample recompence for all the care and pains taken with her. Her reading and observations were extraordinary; for she had considered the human passions, with unusual penetration and accuracy of judgment; and laid such a substantial foundation for her conduct in life, as would have made her a shining example of every Christian virtue; but she died early, though not unprepared, and was buried in Westminster-abbey; on the south side of which, is erected to her memory a beautiful monument of black and white marble.

She wrote, and left behind her, in loose papers, a
work

work, which, soon after her death, was methodized, and published with the following title, *Reliquiæ Gethinianæ; or some Remains of the most ingenious and excellent Lady Grace, Lady Gethin, lately deceased; being a collection of choice Discourses, pleasant Apothegms, and witty Sentences. Written by her, for the most part, by way of essay, and at spare hours. London, 1700, 4to. with her picture before it.* This work consists of ingenious discourses on Friendship, Love, Gratitude, Death, Speech, Lying, Idleness, the World, Secresy, Prosperity and Adversity, of Children, Cowards, Bad Poets, Indifferency, Censoriousness, Revenge, Boldness, of Youth and Age, Custom, Charity, Reading, Beauty, Flattery, Riches, of Honour and high Places, of Pleasure, Suspicion, Excuses, and, lastly, Miscellanies.

Among Mr. Congreve's poems are to be found verses to the Memory of Grace, Lady Gethin, occasioned by reading her book, entitled, *Reliquiæ Gethinianæ*; in which that agreeable poet, after speaking of the shortness of life, and the difficulties of obtaining knowledge, proceeds thus :

Whoe'er on this reflects, and then beholds
 With strict attention what this book unfolds,
 With admiration struck, shall question, who
 So very long could live so much to know ?
 For so complete the finish'd piece appears,
 That learning seems combin'd with length of years,
 And both improv'd by purest wit to reach
 At all that study, or that time can teach.
 But to what height must his amazement rise,
 When having read the work, he turns his eyes

Again to view the foremost opening page,
 And there the beauty, sex, and tender age
 Of her beholds, in whose pure mind arose
 Th' ethereal source from whence this current flows ?

For perpetuating her memory, provision was made for a sermon to be preached in Westminster abbey, on Ash Wednesday for ever.

Female Worthies.

GILLOT, (LOUISA, &c.)

A FRENCH lady, known in the nineteenth century by many works which were well received.

F. C.

GINASJ, (CATERINA)

AN excellent female painter, of whom it suffices to say, that all the pictures in the church of the monastery of S. Lucia, in Rome, are the work of her hands, although designed by Lanfranck.

Abec. Pitt.

GODEWYCK, (MARGERITA) *a Dutch Paintress,*
born at Dort 1627, died 1677.

SHE had a fine taste for painting landscapes, and also excelled in working embroidery.

GODIVA, *Wife of Leofric, Earl of Mercia, temp. Edward the Confessor,*

FAMED as the deliverer of Coventry from many oppressive laws. The story, as taken from a M.S. in Bib. Bod. and Math. Paris, is as follows :

“ This Leofric married Godiva, a most beautiful and devout lady, sister of one Thcroid, sheriff of Lincolnshire

shire in those days, and founder of Spalding Abbey: which countess bearing an extraordinary affection to Coventry, often and earnestly besought her husband that, for the love of God and the blessed Virgin, he would free it from that grievous servitude to which it was subject. But he, rebuking her for importuning him in a matter so inconsistent with his profit, commanded that she should thenceforth forbear to move therein. Yet she, out of her womanish pertinacity, continued to solicit him, insomuch that he told her, if she would ride on horseback naked, from one end of the town to the other, he would grant her request. Whereunto she returned;—But will you give me leave to do so? And he replying, Yes; the noble lady, upon an appointed day, got on horseback, with her hair loose, so that it entirely covered her; and thus performing the journey, returned with joy to her husband, who thereupon granted to the inhabitants a charter of freedom.”

Again,—“And now, before I proceed,” says he, “I have a word more to say of the noble countess Godiva, which is, that besides her devout advancement of that pious work of his, i.e. her husband Leofric, in this magnificent monastery, of *Monks at Coventry*, she gave her whole treasure there; and sent for skilful goldsmiths, who, with all the gold and silver she had, made crosses, images of saints, and other curious ornaments.” Which, perhaps, may serve as a specimen of the devotion and patriotism of the times.

GODWIN, (MARY-WOLLSTONECRAFT).

THIS singular woman was born, 1749, in London, or at a farm in Epping-forest.

Mr. Wollstonecraft was a man of a quick, impetuous disposition, and, it seems, his daughter inherited too much of this warmth to separate, with kindness, a disapprobation of his fits of ill-humour, and sometimes cruelty to his family and to the animals under his protection, from a personal dislike to a father, who is said, but in those transports, (and they are reported to have come pretty often) to have been passionately fond of them.

Her education was slender, and she had none of those early advantages, which have been the lot of most who have distinguished themselves in the literary world. Uncomfortable at home, she left it; and, at nineteen, lived with a Mrs. Dawson, of Bath, as a companion, for two years, only leaving her on the intelligence of her mother's illness, when she returned home, and attended her till her death; after which, finding herself in narrow circumstances, by the imprudence of her father, she was anxious to fix upon some mode of life, which would not only secure her independence, but enable her to be of use to her family and the public: for this purpose, she opened a day-school, first at Islington, then at Newington-green, under the superintendence of her most intimate friends, Miss Fanny Blood, her two sisters, and herself. (The former was her most, and, as it seems, her earliest friend; by her she had been taught to spell, and to write with some regard to the rules of grammar).

Here she became acquainted with Dr. Richard Price,
and

and was led, by her friendship for him, not to become a sectarian, but occasionally to attend the dissenters' meetings; yet, frequenting usually the established church until the last ten years of her life, in which she attended no public service, thinking the contemplation of the Deity the worship best adapted to his nature and to ours.

About the beginning of 1785, concern for her friend Miss Blood, who had married Mr. Skegs, then resident in Portugal, and was dangerously ill, induced Miss Wollstonecraft to borrow a sufficient sum of money, and go to Lisbon to attend her. On her friend's death, she returned to England; but finding her school had suffered in her absence, she was recommended to pursue literature as a means of support. The father and mother of the late Miss Blood wanted pecuniary assistance. She wrote a small volume, entitled *Thoughts on the Education of Daughters*, for which Mr. Johnson, the bookseller, gave her ten guineas, which she bore away, with exultation, to the succour of infirmity and age. And, about this time, received an offer of being governess to the daughters of lord viscount Kingsborough. In this family, where she was much liked, she staid about a year, and then determined to enter on her literary plan, and returned to London, where she commenced author by profession; finding an asylum, at first, under the roof of Mr. Johnson, the bookseller, and afterwards taking a house in George-street, on the Surry side of Black-friars. She wrote many things, which he published; *The Answer to Mr. Burke*, and *The Vindication of the Rights of Women*; and took a considerable share in the *Analytical Review*, which was instituted by him, in 1788. She likewise translated several works for Mr. Johnson; for she

she had made herself, by this time, acquainted with the French and German languages.

At his house she became acquainted with Fuseli, Dr. George Fordyce, Mr. Bonnycastle, and Mr. Anderson. In consequence of an attachment she thought herself in danger of imbibing for the former, she left London and went to France, where she resided for upwards of two years.

About four months after her arrival at Paris, she became acquainted with Mr. Gilbert Imlay, a native of the United States of America, and known by a publication on the *State of Kentucky*.

Always entertaining the most violent prejudices against the condition of European marriages, she yet took upon herself the duties of that state without the ceremony. To screen her from the late decree respecting it in the French convention, she found it expedient to assume the name of Imlay, and pass for the wife of a native of the United States of America; but she refused to be actually married to him, from romantic notions of keeping him free from family embarrassments, and perhaps, from the obstinate vanity of adhering to opinions she had once declared.

Mr. Imlay's pursuits, some time after, led him to Havre de Grace, where, soon after, she repaired, and where she had a daughter. He then went to London, having prevailed with her to return to Paris; and they never met again with cordiality. In April, 1795, she returned to London. But the altered conduct of Mr. Imlay drove her to desperation, and she twice attempted to put an end to her life, but was prevented.

In March, 1796, she totally lost the hope of reclaiming Mr. Imlay, though, twelve months before, all rational

tional grounds of that hope had ceased; and, about six months afterwards, entered into a similar connection with Mr. Godwin, the author of *Political Justice*, &c. They had long known each other, but did not immediately marry, both disliking the responsibilities and conditions attending the ceremony. After, however, Mrs. Godwin found herself pregnant, she thought it better to submit to marriage, than to that exclusion from society to which living without it would subject her. But she still found that Mrs. Godwin was deserted by many ladies who had courted the acquaintance of Mrs. Imlay. As she had passed for the wife of the latter, and had even obtained a *certificate* of the American ambassador at Paris that she was so, her friends in England might think, that in a country like France, where all ancient forms are abolished, such a certificate was sufficient to constitute a legal marriage.

She appears to have lived very happily with Mr. Godwin, until September the 10th, 1797, when she died in childbed in great agonies; afflicted at separating from her husband, but without seeming to entertain a thought of a future state.

Monthly Mirror, British Critic.

GOLINDO (BEATRICE), of *Salamanca, in Spain*,
Lady of Honour to Isabella of Castile, and Wife of
Ramirez, Secretary to the King. Died 1535.

THE perfect knowledge she had of Latin made her be called *La Latina*; a name which an hospital at Madrid, founded by her, still bears.

GOMEZ,

GOMEZ, (MADELEINE-ANGELIQUE POISSON DE) *Daughter of a French Comedian, and Wife of Don Gabriel de Gomez, a Spanish Gentleman. Born at Paris, 1684, died 1771.*

AN agreeable and most entertaining writer, possessed of a warm and lively imagination, which rendered her fully equal to all the genius of romance. Her writings are :

1. *Lettre sur le Poeme du Clovis, de St. Didier*, 8vo. 1725.

2. *Histoire Secrette de la Conquete de Grenade*, 12mo. 1723.

3. *Oeuw es Melees, contenant ses Tragedies et autres Ouvrages*, 12mo. 1724.

4. *Anecdotes Persannes*, 2 vols. 12mo. 1727.

5. *Le Triomphe de l'Eloquence*, 12mo. 1730.

6. *Entretiens Nocturnes de Mercure et de la Renommées*, 12mo, 1731.

7. *La Jeune Alcidiene*, 3 vols. 12mo. 1733.

8. *Histoire d'Osman, Empereur de Turcs*, 12mo. 2 vol. 1734.

9. *Les Cent. une Nouvelles*, 12mo. 18 vols. 1732.

10. *Journees Amusantes*, 12mo. 8 vols. 1733.

11. *Histoire du Comte d'Oxford*, 12mo. 1737.

12. *Crementine, Reine de Sanga*, 12mo. 2 vols. 1740.

13. *La Belle Assemblée*, 12mo. 4 vols. 1750.

14. Theatrical pieces; *Habis, Semiramis, Clearque, Marsidie, et les Epreuves*, which were played with great success, particularly the first. She wrote some poetical pieces, in an easy and playful style. In her old age she retired to St. Germain's en Laye, where she died.

Letters on France.

GONZAGA,

GONZAGA, (JULIA) *Duchess of Trajetto, and Countess of Fondi, lived in the 16th Century ;*

WAS the wife of Vespasian Colonna ;³ after whose death, she took for her device an Amaranthus, which the herbalists call Love-flower, with this motto, *Non moritura*, i.e. never to die ; hinting thereby that her first love should be immortal. She was so celebrated for her beauty, that Soliman, emperor of the Turks, wanting to see her, sent Barbarossa, king of Algiers, and his lieutenant-general, with a powerful army to Fondi, the place of her residence, in 1534. But though Barbarossa arrived at night, and took the city by storm, yet Julia escaped ; for taking the alarm, she ran away bare-footed, and secured her honour, while she exposed her life to a thousand dangers. This lady has been greatly applauded for her learning ; and Thuanus tells us, she was suspected of Lutheranism.

Female Worthies.

GONZAGA, (LUCRETIA) *an Italian Lady, in the 16th Century,*

FAMOUS for her wit, learning, and elegant style of writing, and illustrious for her high birth. Her letters were written in so fine a manner, that they were carefully preserved, and a collection of them printed at Venice, in 1552. There is in them no shew of learning ; yet, in a letter to Robortellus, she declares, that his commentaries had led her into the true sense of several obscure passages in Aristotle and Æschilus. All the wits of her time were unanimous in her praise, and Hortensio Lando dedicated a work to her, *Upon moderating the Passions*
of

of the Soul. They corresponded, and she wrote above thirty letters to him, which have all been printed.

She was married to John Paul Maufrane, when she was not fourteen years old, and his conduct afterwards gave her infinite uneasiness. He engaged in a conspiracy against the duke of Ferrara; was detected, imprisoned, and condemned, but not executed; yet she strove in vain to procure his enlargement. She applied to all the powers in Christendom to intercede for him, and even solicited the Grand Signior to make himself master of the castle, in which her husband was imprisoned, without doing other injury to the European powers. What made her the more active was, because she was not permitted to visit him, and they had only the liberty of writing to each other. But all her efforts were fruitless; he died in prison, and shewed himself so impatient under his misfortunes, that it was imagined he lost his senses.

After his death, she would never listen to any proposals of marriage, though several were made. She had by him four daughters. At his death two only were living, whom she put into a nunnery. All that came from her pen was so highly esteemed, that a collection was made even of the notes she wrote to her servants; several of which are to be seen in the edition of her letters.

Many ladies of this name were famous for their learning and other great qualities.

Female Worthies.

GORSE,

GORSE, (MARGUERITE DE BEAUVOIR DU BOURG, MARQUISE DE LA) *a Lady of great literary Accomplishments, who was living at Toulouse in 1780.*

HER poems are held in great estimation, and entitled her to be admitted into the academy des Jeux Floraux, who considered her as one of their greatest ornaments. Her poem of *L'Amour et la Fortune*, is esteemed excellent. It contains near one hundred and forty lines. She was crowned for this and other compositions several times. It is said her domestic happiness is a proof that genius may add as much to the social comforts of *home*, as it will enliven gayer scenes.

Mrs. Thicknesse.

GOURNAY, (MARY DE JARS, *Lady of*) *Daughter of William de Jars, Lord of Neufoi and Gournay; born, it is said, in Gascony, about the Year 1565, died 1645;*

FROM her infancy was observed to have a strong inclination to literature, to which she devoted her whole time and attention, and soon surpassed all her instructors. Soon after the famous Montaigne had published his first essays, they came to the hands of this lady, who read them over with eagerness, and expressed the highest esteem for the author.

Montaigne being informed of these declarations, made many reflections on the occasion, in praise of Mademoiselle de Gournay's talents. Hence her esteem grew into a higher degree of reverential affection; so that her father happening to die not long after, she adopted this charming writer in his stead, even before she had seen him.

him. But, as he went to Paris in 1588, and continued there good part of the year, she made him a visit, that she might know the face of her father elect, to whom she shewed no less respect and duty than she paid to her natural parent ; insomuch that she prevailed with her mother to take him with them to their house at Gournay, where he was entertained with all possible civility and kindness for two or three months.

In short, she was so devoted to the belles lettres, that Montaigne foretold, in his second book of essays, that she would be capable of the first-rate productions. She passed many years very happily in friendship with him and his family ; and when she received the news of his death, crossed almost the whole kingdom of France, invited by his widow and daughter to come and mingle her tears with theirs. Not satisfied with paying this filial respect to his ashes, she revised, corrected, and reprinted an edition of his essays, in 1635, to which she prefixed a preface, in which she makes use of the strongest expressions of esteem and respect for his memory.

The dedication was to cardinal Richelieu, who was her patron ; and who, to enable her to set up her coach and equipage, offered to enlarge the small pension which had been granted her by the king ; but she declined the favour, looking on the pension merely as a testimony of her merit, and as it was trifling, all the reflections on a dependance were cut off, which would unavoidably attend its enlargement. She was always welcome to the princesses of the blood ; and in particular her society was courted by the duke de Retelois, eldest son of the duke de Nevers, who, though of a very gay and gallant temper, would leave any other lady's conversation for her's, who was very plain in her person.

Upon

Upon the assassination of Henry IV. by Ravailac the Jesuit, in 1610, both papists and protestants fell upon that order on the occasion. Father Coton, an eminent member of the society, undertook their vindication, and was answered in a piece, entitled *Anti-coton*.

Mademoiselle de Gournay published some books, in favour of the Jesuits, against the *Anti-coton*. Upon which she was attacked, in some illiberal publications, which ridiculed her on her age, her person, and her reputation, most unjustly. She wrote several things both in prose and verse, which were collected into one volume, and published by herself in 1636, entitled, *Les Avis, et les Presens de la Demoiselle de Gournai*.

Mademoiselle de Gournay was celebrated for her learning and knowledge; she corresponded with most of the great men of her time, and was considered as the guardian and protectress of the ancient words in the French language, being greatly offended at the alterations which were daily creeping in. She dedicated her book, entitled *Le Bouquet de Pinde*, to her adopted sister.

She left some other works in M.S. which were printed after her death, under this title, *L'Ombre de Mlle. de Gournai*; and another, *Avis de Mlle. de Gournai*. This extraordinary woman studied continually, even to her death, which happened at Paris in 1645, at the age of eighty. A great number of epitaphs were made by the first geniuses of the age, in honour of her memory.

Mrs. Thicknesse. Female Worthies, &c.

COZZADINA, (BETTISIA) a learned Lady of Bologna, who died 1249.

1232, at the age of twenty-three, she pronounced a beau-

a beautiful funeral oration in Latin, in the great church of Bologna. She applied herself particularly to the study of the law, became a doctor in that university, and obtained a professor's chair in 1239, gave public lessons and composed many works on the law, which obtained her the esteem of all Europe. She would never marry.

F. C.

GRAFFIGNY, (MADAME DE).

THIS lady's maiden name was Françoise d'Apponcourt, only daughter to Françoise d'Issembourg, of a noble and ancient German family; she was born in Lorraine, and died at Paris 1758, in the 64th year of her age. To a solid understanding and strength of judgment, she united a susceptible heart, and an amiable disposition; her engaging manners in conversation, charmed all who knew her. The early part of her life was spent in retirement, and in studying the best authors, and she then accompanied Mlle. de Guise to Paris, previous to that lady's marriage with the duke de Richelieu.

Some of her first literary productions were *Nouvelle Espagnole*, and *Les Lettres d'une Peruvienne*, (which has been published in England, under the title of *The Peruvian Princess*); both of which were much admired, but particularly the latter, as it is written with great spirit, and abounds with delicacy of sentiment. The story is simple and interesting, and there is a vein of elegant and gay satire in it, highly amusing. Her theatrical pieces are also much esteemed, particularly *Cenie*, a comedy in five acts; and another, entitled *Fille d'Aristide*. She also composed many others.

verse and prose ; but her Peruvian Letters are her chef-d'œuvre ; and, without laying claim to the highest palm of genius, are the pleasing productions of a mind of taste and observation.

Mrs. Thicknesse.

GRAVIO, (MARIA SIBILLA) *Daughter of Matthew Merian, of Frankfort, and Wife of George Andrew Gravio, a Painter of Nuremberg ;*

PAINTED flowers, fruits, herbs, and animals, so true to nature that it was wonderful : she embroidered excellently, and gave lessons in all those studies. She flourished in 1683. Some of her drawings are in the British Museum.

Abec. Pitt.

GRAVILLE, (ANNA DE)

WROTE the French poem of *Palamon and Arcite*, at the command of Claude, queen of Francis I. about the year 1489 : she took her story from Boccace's *Theseide*.

Wharton's Hist. of Eng. Poetry.

GREY (LADY JANE), *eldest Daughter of Henry, Marquis of Dorset, and Duke of Suffolk, by Mary, Queen Dowager to Louis XII. of France, and youngest Daughter of Henry VII. Born in the Year 1537, at Broadgate, in Leicestershire. Died 1553-4.*

EDWARD VI. was deemed almost a prodigy of learning for his early years ; yet, in this respect, his pious cousin, Lady Jane, was allowed to be his superior,

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though there was but about two years difference in age. She spoke and wrote her own language with peculiar accuracy; and, it is said, that the French, Italian, Latin, and Greek languages, were as familiar to her as the English; for she not only understood them perfectly, but wrote them with the utmost freedom, not only in the opinion of superficial judges, but of Mr. Ascham and Dr. Aylmer, men who, in point of veracity, were as much above suspicion, as in point of abilities they were incapable of being deceived. Lady Jane became also versed in Hebrew, Chaldee, and Arabic, played well on instrumental music, wrote a fine hand, and was excellent at her needle, and of mild, humble, and modest spirit. She had early imbibed the principles of the Protestant religion, which she embraced, as Dr. Heylin, in his *History of the Reformation*, observes, not out of any outward compliance with the times, but because her own judgment was fully satisfied of its truth and purity, which appeared from her constant adherence to it, when neither the hope of grandeur nor the fear of death could reconcile her to the Romish church.

Her very strong affection for learning is shewn by this remarkable testimony of Mr. Ascham. “Before I went into Germany, I came to Broadgate, in Leicestershire, to take my leave of that noble lady Jane Grey, to whom I was exceeding much beholding. Her parents, the duke and the duchess, with all the household, gentlemen and gentlewomen, were hunting in the park. I found her in her chamber, reading *Phædon Platonis*, in Greek, and that with as much delight as some gentlemen would read a merry tale in Boccace. After salutation, and duty done, with some other talk, I asked her, why she should lose so much pastime in the park?

Smiling,

Smiling, she answered me, “ I wist all their sport in the park is but a shadow to that pleasure that I find in Plato. Alas! good folk, they never felt what true pleasure meant.” —“ And how came you, Madam,” quoth I, “ to this deep knowledge of pleasure, and what did chiefly allure you unto it, seeing not many women, and but very few men have attained thereunto?” —“ I will tell you,” said she, “ and tell you a truth, which perchance you will marvel at. One of the greatest benefits that God ever gave me, is, that he sent me, so sharp and severe parents, and so gentle a schoolmaster; for when I am in presence of either father or mother, whether I speak, keep silence, sit, stand, or go, eat, drink, be merry or sad, be sewing, dancing, or doing any thing else, I must do it as it were, in such weight, measure, and number, even so perfectly as God made the world, or else I am so sharply taunted, so cruelly threatened, yea presently sometimes, with pinches, nips, and bobs, and other ways (which I will not name for the honour I bear them) without measure misordered, till the time come that I must go to Mr. Elmer, who teacheth me so gently, so pleasantly, with such fair allurements to learning, that I think all the time nothing whiles I am with him. And when I am called from him, I fall on weeping, because whatsoever I do else, but learning, is full of grief, trouble, fear, and whole misliking unto me. And thus my book hath been so much my pleasure, and bringeth to me daily more pleasure, and more that in respect of it, all other pleasures in very deed, are but trifles and very troubles unto me.” I remember this talk very gladly, (says Mr. Ascham), both because it is so worthy of memory, and because also it was the last talk that ever I had, and the last time that ever I saw that noble and worthy lady.”

Her great attainments and amiable qualities endeared her so much to the young king, Edward VI. that he was the more easily seduced by the artifices of the duke of Northumberland to seclude his two sisters, Mary and Elizabeth, from the succession, and convey it by will to the Lady Jane. The duke, in order to get the crown into the possession of his own family, contrived a match between the Lord Guildford Dudley, his fourth son, and the Lady Jane, which was solemnized at Durham-place, in May, 1553. Soon after her marriage, the king's health declined apace, and he died the 6th of July following, 1553, not without suspicion of poison.

These previous steps being taken, and the Tower and city of London secured, on Monday, July 10, the two dukes repaired to Durham-house, where the lady Jane resided with her husband. There the duke of Suffolk, with much solemnity, explained to his daughter the disposition the late king had made of his crown; the clear sense the privy-council had of her right; the consent of the magistrates and citizens, and with Northumberland, paid her homage as queen of England. Greatly astonished at their discourse, but not at all persuaded by their reasons, or elevated by such unexpected honours, she returned them an answer to this effect: "That the laws of the kingdom, and the natural right standing for the king's sisters, she would beware of burdening her weak conscience with a yoke that did belong to them; that she understood the infamy of those who had permitted the violation of right to gain a sceptre; that it were to mock God, and deride justice, to scruple at the stealing of a shilling, and not at the usurpation of a crown. Besides," said she, "I am not so young, nor so little read in the smiles of fortune, to suffer myself to be taken by them. If she enrich any, it
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is but to make them the subject of her spoil; if she raise others, it is but to pleasure herself with their ruins; what she adored but yesterday, to-day is her pastime; and if I now permit her to adorn and crown me, I must to-morrow suffer her to crush and tear me to pieces. My liberty is better than the chain you proffer me, with what precious stones soever it be adorned, or of what gold soever framed. I will not exchange my place for honourable and precious jealousies, for magnificent and glorious fetters; and if you love me sincerely, and in good earnest, you will rather wish me a secure and quiet fortune, though mean, than an exalted condition, exposed to the wind, and followed by some dismal fall."

However, she was at length prevailed upon by her father, mother, and Northumberland, but above all, by the earnest desires of her husband, whom she tenderly loved, to yield to their request; with a heavy heart suffering herself to be conveyed to the Tower, where she entered with all the state of a queen, attended by the principal nobility, and her train supported by the duchess of Suffolk, her mother, in whom, if in any of this line, the right of succession remained. About six o'clock in the afternoon, she was proclaimed with all due solemnities in the city: the same day she also assumed the regal title, and proceeded afterwards to exercise acts of sovereignty. But the preparations made by Mary to recover her right, with the general coldness and neglect observed in the Lady Jane's cause, induced the two dukes, after a few days of mock grandeur, to drop their ambitious views, and feign submission to Mary. Upon this sudden turn, the duke, her father, came, and in the gentlest terms required her to lay aside the state of a queen, and content herself with the condition of a sub-

ject. She, not at all discomposed, told him, that she was much better pleased with this news than when she ascended the throne purely in obedience to himself and her mother.

Mary being seated on the throne, Lady Jane, with her husband, were committed to the Tower, and on the 13th of November both arraigned at Guildhall, and brought in guilty of treason, but not executed till the duke of Suffolk engaged in Wyatt's rebellion, which proved fatal to his excellent daughter, as the ministry now advised the queen to proceed to extremities, since, they said, she could not be safe so long as Lady Jane was living.

This being resolved on, many of the Roman Catholics of learning and abilities were sent to her, to dissuade her from the religion she had always professed, each striving to convert her to the Romish church; but all their efforts were fruitless, for she had art and wisdom to withstand their flatteries, and constancy above their menaces. At last Mr. Feckingham, chaplain to the queen, was sent to give her notice of her death; and offered to reconcile her to the church of Rome. She received the first part of his message with great temper and unconcern, but said, she had no leisure to enter upon controversy, and should spend the little time she had in preparing for eternity. Mr. Feckingham, on this, procured a respite for three days; but when he acquainted her with it, he desired she would hear him upon the subject of religion. She told him, he mistook her meaning, that she was by no means fond of living any longer, and had not the least intention he should solicit the queen on that account; but Mr. Feckingham being very pressing to converse with her on religious topics, at last they engaged in a dispute concerning justification by faith,

faith, the number of sacraments, transubstantiation, communion in one kind, and the authority of the church. This conference gained her much esteem, and is greatly admired and commended by bishop Burnet, Mr. Collier, and other ecclesiastical historians.

Hollinshed and Sir Richard Baker inform us, that she wrote divers excellent treatises; but what they were, or where to be found, is not mentioned. Many of her letters remain, remarkably elegant and pious.

On the morning of execution, Lord Guildford earnestly desired to take his last farewell of her; but she declined it, saying, they should soon meet again, and it would only add to their present affliction. All she could do, was to give him a farewell from a window; but when she went to the scaffold, she met his dead body, which moved her to tears. Having ascended it, she declared herself innocent of any wilful transgression of the laws of the kingdom; saying, that her crime was the being too easily persuaded, but she did not murmur at her sentence, and submitted to the scaffold with admirable meekness and composure, at the age of seventeen.

Female Worthies, &c.

GRIERSON (CONSTANTIA), *of the County of Kilkenny, in Ireland; died 1733, aged 27;*

WAS allowed, long before, to be an excellent scholar, not only in Greek and Roman literature, but in history, divinity, philosophy, and mathematics. She gave a proof of her knowledge in the Latin tongue, by her dedication of the Dublin edition of *Tacitus* to the Lord Carteret, and by that of *Terence* to his son, to whom she likewise wrote a Greek epigram. She wrote several fine
poems

poems in English, on which she set so little value, that she neglected to leave copies, but of very few, behind her.

She is said to have exemplified that fine saying of a French author : “ That a great genius should be superior to his own abilities.”

When Lord Carteret was lord-lieutenant of Ireland, he obtained a patent for Mr. Grierson, her husband, to be king’s printer; and to distinguish and reward her uncommon merit, had her life inserted in it.

The foregoing account is entirely transcribed from Mrs. Barber’s preface prefixed to her poems. To this we shall add some particulars, which Mrs. Pilkington has recorded. She tells us, “ that when about eighteen years of age, she was brought to her father to be instructed in midwifery ; that she was mistress of Hebrew, Greek, Latin, and French, understood mathematics as well as most men; and what made these extraordinary talents yet more surprising, was, that her parents were poor illiterate country people ; so that her learning appeared like the gift, poured out on the apostles, of speaking all languages without the pains of study.” Mrs. Pilkington enquired of her, where she had gained this prodigious knowledge? To which Mrs. Grierson answered, “ that she received some little instruction from the minister of the parish, when she could spare time from her needle-work, to which she was closely kept by her mother.” Mrs. Pilkington adds, “ that she wrote elegantly both in verse and prose; that her turn was chiefly to philosophical or divine subjects; that her piety was not inferior to her learning; and that some of the most delightful hours she herself had ever passed, were in the conversation of this female philosopher.”

She wrote an *Abridgement of the History of England*.

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There are many particular circumstances of her life which do her honour, and are a noble example to the living, particularly as a wife and mother. She was patronized by the late Lord Granville, and was the editor of several of the classics. Her son, who was his Majesty's printer at Dublin, and instructed by her, was a man of uncommon learning, great wit, and vivacity. He died in Germany, at the age of twenty-seven. Dr. Johnson highly respected his abilities, and often observed, that he possessed more extensive knowledge than any man of his years he had ever known. His industry was equal to his talents, he particularly excelled in every species of philological learning, and was perhaps the best critic of his time.

Female Worthies, &c.

GRIFFITH (MRS.) *Wife of Richard Griffith, Esq. an Irish Gentleman, and an Author,*

FIRST distinguished herself by the *Letters of Henry and Frances*, which contained the correspondence of herself and husband, both before their marriage and for some years after. They were published at the particular request of Margaret, countess of York, who was one of the confidants of this connection, which was first kept secret for family reasons. This collection has passed through many editions. Her next work was, *Memoirs of Ninon de l'Enclos*, translated from the French, with original comments, and she has treated the subject with particular judgment and delicacy. A dramatic poem, named *Amana*, was her next publication, which was followed by three popular novels, *The Delicate Distress*, *History of Lady Barton*, and *The Story of Lady Juliana Harlequin*. In some of the intervals to these publications, she produced

duced three comedies, *the Platonic Wife*, *the Double Mistake*, and *the School for Scandal*, all of which were acted with much applause. Another, called *a Wife in the Right*, had not the same success.

The last and most valuable of her works were, *the Morality of Shakespeare's Drama illustrated*, and *Essays to Young Married Women*. She died 1793, at Millicent, in the county of Kildare, Ireland.

GUE'BRIANT (RENE'E DU BEC, MARE'CHALE DE),

ONE of the cleverest women of her time, was an ambassador in 1645 to Poland, conducting there Maria-Louisa Gonzaga, of Mantua, who was to be queen of that country. Uladislaus, however, had been in the mean time so prejudiced against his destined wife, that he thought of sending her back to France. The maréchal, however, exerted such a proper spirit in an interview with him, and so satisfied his mind in respect to what he had heard, that the marriage took place; and to witness his high esteem for Madame de Guébriant, he commanded the same honours to be paid to her as to the Archduchess of Inspruck. She died at Perigueux in 1659.

F. C.

GUESNERIE (MADEMOISELLE DE LA), *very highly distinguished for her learning and literary talents.*

COMPOSED a work, *Memoires de Milady B.* which has been attributed to Madame Ricoboni; but its real author was Mademoiselle de la Guesnerie, a native of Angers,

Angers, whose stile and sentiment is equal to any of her predecessors or cotemporaries; and her manner of writing is such, as would almost make converts of those who do not in general admire that line of literature.

Mrs. Thicknesse.

GUERRE (ELIZABETH CLAUDE JACQUET DE LA), *born at Paris,*

GAVE proofs, during her early infancy, of extraordinary musical abilities; for at fifteen, she played before the king, and Madame de Montespan kept her three or four years. She married Martin de la Guerre, an organist, and gave the world *Cephalis* and *Procris* (the words by Duché), three books of Cantatas, a collection of Harpsichord Lessons, another of Sonatas, and a Te Deum for the king's recovery, with grand chorusses, which was performed in the chapel at the Louvre, 1721. She died 1729.

GUERCHOIS (MADAME LE), *born at Paris 1679.*
Died 1746.

A WOMAN of virtue, taste, and wisdom, author of *Reflexions Chretiennes sur les Livres Historiques de l' Ancien Testament. Avis d'un Mere a son Fils. Instructions ou Exercises pour les Sacramens de Penitence & d'Euchariste*; and *Pratiques pour se disposer a la Mort.*

GUIBERT (MADAME),

COMPOSED a variety of poems, epistles, and dramas, which have met with great success, particularly the three
fol-

following; *La Coquette Corrigée*, *Les Rendezvous*, and *Les Filles à Marier*. But the most singular composition of this lady is her own portrait, the only one we recollect having met with in verse.

vive jus qu'a l'étourderie,
 Folle dans mes discours, mais sage en mes écrits,
 Ils sont presque toujours remplis,
 Par des traits de philosophie.
 Sensible pour l'instant, mais facile à changer,
 L'oublie, & quelquefois on peut me croire ingrate.
 Je cherche à m'éclairer; Je crois ce qui me flatte;
 Je fuis les envieux, sans vouloir m'en vanger:
 Mon esprit est solide, & mon cœur est léger.
 Air gai, peau blanche, oeil noir & grandeur ordinaire;
 Mes traits sont chifonnés; ma taille est régulière.

[GUILLAUME (JACQUETTE),

Who published a work in 1665, with the title of *Les Dames Illustres, où, par bonnes & fortes raisons, il se prouve que le Sexe Feminin surpasse en toute sorte de Genre le sexe Masculin*. Her stile of writing is perfectly easy, elegant, and unaffected, and shews her to have been a woman of knowledge and abilities: she possessed besides many amiable qualities.

Another lady of the same surname published, in 1668, a similar work.

Mrs. Thicknesse, &c.

GUILLET (PENETTE DU), a *Poetess of Lyons*, contemporary with *Louisa Labé*, and illustrious for her virtue, graces, beauty, and literary attainment.

SHE accompanied her own voice on many instruments, which she touched with exquisite skill. The Spanish,
 Italian,

Italian, and Latin languages, in the last of which she composed many poems, were almost as familiar to her as the French. Many of her poetical pieces have reached the present times.

F. C. &c.

GUNILDA, *sister of Sweyn, King of Denmark,*

WAS given as a hostage for the treaty of peace made between him and Ethelred. She embraced christianity, married Pulling, one of the principal lords of the English court, and settled in this country; when in the general massacre of the Danes, under the direction of the victorious Edric, Gunilda fell a victim. The throats of her husband and children were cut before her eyes, and they then killed her by strokes with a lance. She died with all the firmness of a philosopher, lamenting almost equally the executioners and the victims. “God will punish you,” said she coldly to the latter, “and my brother will revenge my death.” Sweyn did revenge her, and England sunk beneath the Danish yoke.

Rivalité de la Fr. et de l'Ang.

GUYON (JOHANNA MARY BOUVIERS DE LA MOTHE), *a French Lady, memorable for her writings and sufferings, was descended of a Noble Family, and born at Montargis 1648, Died 1717.*

SHE was sent, when only seven years of age, to the convent of the Ursulines, where she was taken care of by one of her half sisters. At eight years of age, the confessor of the queen-mother of England, widow of Charles I. presented her to that princess, who would have retained her, had not her parents opposed it, and
sent

sent her back to the Ursulines. She would fain have taken the habit; but they having promised her to a gentleman in the country, obliged her to marry him. At twenty-eight years of age she became a widow, being left with three young children, two sons and a daughter, of whom she was constituted guardian, and their education, with the management of her fortune, became her only employment. She had put her domestic affairs into such order, as shewed an uncommon capacity; when of a sudden she was struck with an impulse to abandon every worldly care, and give herself up to serious meditation, in which she thought the whole of religion was comprized.

In this disposition of mind she went first to Paris, where she became acquainted with M. d'Aranthon, bishop of Geneva, who persuaded her to go to his diocese, in order to perfect an establishment he had founded at Gex, for the reception of newly converted Catholics. She accordingly went in 1681, and took only her daughter with her. Some time afterwards, her parents desired her to resign the guardianship of her children to them, and all her fortune, which was 40,000 livres a-year. She readily complied with their request, reserving only a moderate pension for her own subsistence. Hereupon the new community desired their bishop to request her to bestow this remainder upon their house, and become herself the superior; but she refused to comply with the proposal, not approving their regulations; at which the bishop and his community took such offence. that he desired her to leave the house.

She then retired to the Ursulines at Thonon, and from thence to Turin, Grenoble, and at last to Verceil, by the invitation of that bishop, who had a great veneration for her piety. At length, after an absence of five years, her

her ill state of health made her return to Paris, in 1686, to have the best advice. During her perambulations abroad, she composed the *Moyen court et tres facile de faire Oraison*; and another piece entitled, *Le Cantique de Cantiques de Salomon interprete, selon le Sens mystique*, which were printed at Lyons, with a licence of approbation; but as her irreproachable conduct, and extraordinary virtues, made many converts to her system, which was called *Quietism*, she was confined, by an order from the king, in the convent des Filles de la Visitation, in 1688. Here she was strictly examined for the space of eight months, by order of M. Harlai, archbishop of Paris; but this served only to illustrate her innocence and virtue; and Madam Miranion, the superior of the convent, representing the injustice of her detention to Madame Maintenon, the latter pleaded her cause so effectually to the king, that she obtained her discharge, and afterwards conceived for her a particular affection and esteem.

Not long after her deliverance, she became known to Fenelon, afterwards archbishop of Cambray, who became her disciple. She had besides acquaintance with the dukes de Chevreuse and Beauvilliers, and several other distinguished persons. But these connections could not protect her from the ecclesiastics, who made violent outcries on the danger of the church from her sect.

IN this exigence, she was persuaded to put her writings into the hands of the bishop of Meaux, and submit them to his judgment: who, after reading all her papers, both printed and MSS. had a conference with her, and was well satisfied with her principles; yet a ferment daily increased, and an order was procured for the re-examination

nation of her two books. M. Bossuet was at the head of this examination, to whom, at the request of Madam Guyon, was joined the bishop of Chalons, afterwards Cardinal de Noailles ; and to these two were added, first, M. Transon, superior of the society of St. Sulpice ; and Fenelon. Madam Guyon, while her cause was under examination, retired to the convent of Meaux, at the desire of that bishop. At the end of six months, thirty-four articles were drawn up, which were signed at Isay, near Paris, by all the examinants, and by Madam Guyon, who declared “ she had always intended to write in a true catholic sense, and had not apprehended any other could be put upon her words.”

In consequence of these submissions, and the testimony given of her conduct, during six months residence in the convent of St. Mary de Meaux, the bishop continued her in the participation of the sacrament, declaring that he had not found her any wise involved in heresies elsewhere condemned. Thus cleared, she returned to Paris, not dreaming of any further prosecution ; but the storm was not yet allayed, for she was involved in the persecution of the archbishop of Cambray, who as well as herself, was accused of Quietism, and she was imprisoned before the expiration of the year 1695, in the castle of Vincennes ; from thence she was removed to the convent of Thomas à Girard, and then thrown into the Bastile, where she underwent many rigorous examinations, and continued in prison, as a criminal, till the meeting of the general assembly of French clergy, in 1700, when nothing being made out against her, she was released. After which, she went to the castle belonging to her children, and from thence to Blois, the next town to it.

From

From this time till her death, which was twelve years, she remained in perfect oblivion, and her uniform and retired life is an evident proof, that the noise she had made in the world, proceeded not from any ambition she had of making a figure in it: her whole time being employed in the contemplation of God. The numerous verses which proceeded from the abundance of her heart, were formed into a collection, which was printed after her death, in five volumes, under the title of *Cantiques Spirituels, ou d'Emblemes sur l'Amour Divin*. Her other writings consist of twenty volumes of the Old and New Testament, with *Reflexions et Explications concernant la Vie interieure*; *Discours Chretiennes*, in two volumes; *Letters to several Persons*, in four; *Her Life*, written by herself, in three; a volume of *Visitations*, drawn from the most venerable authors, which she made use of before her examiners, and two of *Opuscles*.

She died June 2, 1717, having survived the archbishop of Cambray almost two years and a half, who had a singular veneration for her to the day of his death. Her poems were translated by Cowper, a little before his death.

Female Worthies, &c.

H

HABERT, (SUSAN DE) *Wife of Charles du Jardin, an Officer of the Household to Henry III. of France. Died 1633.*

Becoming a widow in 1585, at the age of twenty-four, she applied herself to literature, particularly philosophy,

osophy, divinity, and the Spanish, Italian, Latin, Greek, and Hebrew languages. She was still more worthy of respect from the sanctity of her manners and life, than for her great learning.

Father Feejoo.

HACHETTE, (JANE) *Native of Beauvais, in Picardy, renowned for her Courage in the 15th Century.*

THE Burgundians having laid siege to this town in 1472, Jane, at the head of a troop of women, valiantly defended it; repulsed them when they assaulted the place, took their colours from the hand of a soldier, who was going to plant them on the walls, and threw him headlong from it. In memory of this action, the privilege of walking at the head of the troops, carrying these colours, was granted to her, and some others ensured to her descendants. The portrait of this heroine is still shewn at Beauvais; and, on the 10th of July, there was an annual procession, in which the women walked first.

F. C.

HALKET, (LADY ANNA) *Daughter of Mr. Murray, of the Tullibardin Family. Born in London, 1622; died 1699;*

WAS instructed by her parents, who each presided over the education of different branches of the royal family, in every polite and liberal science; but theology and physic were her favourite studies. She became so particularly versed in the latter art, and in the practice of surgery, that she was consulted, not only by the first people

people in England, but in Holland also, whence many came for her advice.

In 1656, she married Sir Francis Halket, by whom she had four children, of whom only one survived. This union, which proved a happy one, lasted fourteen years, and she remained a widow for the last twenty-eight of her life, universally beloved and respected for her learning and virtue. She was a loyalist, and a sufferer in the cause of Charles I.

Lady Anna left twenty-one volumes, and thirty-six stitched books, of her writings; some in folio, some in quarto, of which, a volume of *Meditations*, taken from her numerous MSS. were printed at Edinburgh, 1701.

Female Worthies.

HASTINGS, (LADY ELIZABETH) *Daughter of Theophilus, Earl of Huntingdon. Born 1682; died 1739;*

SUCCEEDED to a large fortune on the death of her brother, George, Earl of Huntingdon, which she employed in the exercise of widely extended christian charity. Mr. Congreve has drawn her character, under the name of *Aspasia*, in the 42d number of the *Tatler*. He praises her there for superior beauty, grace, and elegance of manners; for unaffected wisdom and virtue; for strict economy and active benevolence; and all that exalts and ornaments a character.

She lived principally at Ledstone house, in Yorkshire, which she rendered convenient for the sake of her servants, and elegant in order to employ the neighbouring poor. Her public charities, during her life and by bequest, were more numerous than those of any other English woman. In private aid to her relations, friends,

or the distress, she acted with royal munificence. She possessed a fine understanding and a lively wit, which was restrained by unaffected good-nature, fearful to give pain, and penetrating enough to know when pain was given, even when done without intention.

She had early in life received an accidental hurt upon her breast, which occasioned an inward tumour, that, in time, grew painful and increased, till there was a necessity for amputation. Lady Elizabeth heard and submitted to the sentence with equanimity; but though a short respite was thus procured, it eventually hastened her death.

“ Her patience and resignation, under a long and tedious sickness; her mourning for the sins of men; her unwearied endeavours for their eternal welfare; her generous and charitable appointments; her tender expressions to her relations, friends, and servants, and her grateful acknowledgments to her physicians, require whole pages to set them in a proper light.”

Though solicited by many, Lady Elizabeth preferred a single life. She destroyed the greatest part of her papers before her death, and was buried in the family vault at Ledstone.

Historical Character of, &c.

HAVERNON, (*Daughter of*) *the only Pupil of the celebrated Van Huspen,*

MADE such an astonishing progress in painting, that she excited her master's jealousy.

HELENA,

HELENA, *Queen of Adiabene, in Arabia,*

WITH her son, embraced the Jewish religion. She was the wife of her brother Monobazus, who left the kingdom to this his younger son, although he happened to be absent at the time of his father's death; it was confirmed by the nobles. In such a case, the other brothers were always put to death by the barbarous policy of those ages; but Helena managed to preserve those of Izates; and, till his return, put the crown upon the head of the eldest, who then willingly surrendered it. Though separated, Helena and her son had both been privately instructed in the Jewish religion; and the fearfulness of a mother made her anxious that he should conceal this difference in sentiment from his people; but he acted otherwise, and prospered, till she begun to think such concealment might be displeasing to the Almighty; and, having long formed a wish to go to Jerusalem, did so, being accompanied, the greatest part of the way, by her son. When she came there, she found the people afflicted with a famine, and sent for corn from Alexandria to relieve them. She became otherwise a great benefactor to the Jews, and built many public edifices in Judea.

Antiquities of the Jews.

HELENA, *Daughter of Coel, King of Colchester, Wife of the Emperor Constantine, and Mother of Constantine the Great,*

Is celebrated for her great piety, and for discovering, according to the superstitious opinions of the age, the wood of the true cross.

F. C.

HELOISE,

HELOISE, or ELOISA, (*Abbess of the Paraclete*)
*Niece of Fulbert, a Canon of the Church of Notre Dame,
at Paris ; died 1163 ;*

SHE had scarcely reached her eighteenth year, when, by her beauty, learning, and elegance, she attracted the notice of Peter Abelard, a young but celebrated doctor of theology ; who took advantage of the parsimony of her uncle, to introduce himself into the house as a lodger, and to grant, as a favour to him, lessons in philosophy, which he wished to give his niece, as a means of enjoying her society, and ingratiating himself into her favour.

Fulbert, vain of Heloise's talents, and anxious for her improvement, complied but too readily with his scheme, and her innocence fell a victim to the admiration and love her young preceptor inspired. On discovering the truth, her uncle, almost distracted, forbade their interviews ; but they contrived to meet, till it became improper for her to remain where she then was, and Abelard took her off, by stealth, to his sister's, in Britanny, where she had a son. Determined to save her reputation as much as was now in his power, her lover then went to her uncle, and after the first storm of his passion was over, proposed to marry her ; but wished, for a while, it might be kept secret. At length the old man acceded ; but when Heloise heard his determination, she objected forcibly to it, on the score of Abelard's interest as a theologian. His celebrity, and his hopes of rising in the church, she affirmed would be ruined by this match. He saw, that, regardless of her own interest, she considered only his ; and his affection could less than ever submit to a sacrifice far less delicate than generous. The injunction of secrecy was repeated, and
they

they were married ; but, anxious to wipe out the blot from his family, her uncle quickly spread abroad the report. Heloise as pertinaciously contradicted it; which so irritated Fulbert, who considered her husband only as to blame, that by an act of vengeance, he separated them ; but, at the same time, forfeited his own benefices, and became an object of general detestation.

Abelard, in consequence, determined to leave the world, for a convent ; but it was necessary for his peace that Heloise should do the same, which she scrupled not to do, making her profession, in her 22d year, as a nun of Argenteuil, a few days before he took upon him the order of St. Denis, where the licentious manners of the monks awakened his censure, and, in consequence, their hatred and persecution. He fled from them to other retreats ; but the same unhappy destiny continually pursued him.

Heloise also, who had been chosen prioress of Argenteuil, on the dissolution of that monastery for the disorders of the nuns, applied to Abelard for advice, who obtained the assignment of the Paraclete, in Champagne, a house he had built, to her, where she founded a nunnery, and, by her exemplary conduct obtained general respect and admiration. They, at first, as dear friends who needed each other's counsel, sometimes met ; but, after a while, found, that instead of consoling, these visits made them more unhappy, and discontinued them ; when an epistle from Abelard to a friend, in which he recapitulated the misfortunes of his life, fell into the hands of Heloise, and caused those beautiful and impassioned letters, which have been preserved to posterity. In those written by her she complains, that even when she affected to devote her heart to God, it was fixed upon an earthly being, whom she could not yet
tear

tear from it. She appears to ease her heart by revealing its weakness ; but Abelard, at length, put an end to the dangerous indulgence, and, after new troubles and persecutions, died 1142, in the 63d year of his age. Heloise survived him twenty years, employing her time in study and the duties of her vocation. She was skilled in all the learned languages, in philosophy, mathematics, and the study of the holy scriptures. Her letters are written in Latin ; and she appears, both in person and mind, to have been the most accomplished woman of her time.

F. C. Letters, &c.

HELENA, *an Egyptian female Painter,*

PAINTED the battle of Issica, which Vespasian placed in the Temple of Peace.

Abecedario Pittorico.

HERBERT (MARY), *Countess of Pembroke,*

A GREAT encourager of letters, and herself an ingenious poet. Her character on the whole may be fairly judged from the epitaph.

Underneath this sable hearse
Lies the subject of all verse,
Sidney's sister, Pembroke's mother.
Death, ere thou hast slain another,
Fair and learned, good as she,
Time shall throw a dart at thee.

HERITIER DE VILLANDON (MARY JANE L'),

Born at Paris 1664; died 1734;

RECEIVED from her father, who was a man of learning, an education conformable to his own taste, and her progress more than equalled his expectations. She won prizes in several academies, was received into that of the Ricovrati, in Padua, and composed many works popular in her day. She was not only celebrated for her literary talents, but for the sweetness of her disposition, the elegance of her manners, and her unaffected modesty. She opened her house twice a week for the reception of company, but being rather straitened in her income, M. de Chauvelin, then minister of state, made a little addition to it, by procuring her a pension of four hundred livres from the crown. She translated sixteen of Ovid's Epistles into French verse; and amongst her prose writings are, *La Tour Tenebreuse*, or History of Richard, King of England, some Memoirs, and little historical anecdotes. In her poetry there is a sonnet, said to have been written by the above prince in his confinement, and to have fallen into her hands.

Mrs. Thicknesse.

HESSE CASSEL (AMELIA ELIZABETH OF HANAU, LANDGRAVINE OF), *Wife of William V. Landgrave of Hesse-Cassel, and Regent after his Death.*
Born 1602; died 1651.

RENDERED her name celebrated by her courage and political wisdom.

IN concert with Christina of Sweden, and the queen of France, she made war, and helped to pull down the
 exor-

exorbitant power of Spain and Germany. She maintained an army of twenty thousand men, as well for the defence of the state, as for the annoyance of her enemies and those of her allies.

She entered on the regency at a time when the country was wearied by the wars of her husband, who died young in 1637. Those who wished to invade it, amongst whom were some of her relations and neighbours, believed they had found a proper time to put their design in execution; but they soon repented, when they found they had to encounter a woman who had the heart of a hero, and the head of a consummate politician. She drove them from her dominions, and forced them to make peace; yet, during her regency, she had no relaxation: battles and sieges continually occupied her generals, who followed her counsels and commands. She heard good news without improper exultation, and bad with decent composure. She was prompt in decision, indefatigable in business; eloquent, penetrating, and prudent; if her opinion in debate was not followed, it was inevitably that which she judged best and wisest, and herself preferred, on consideration, to her own. She was so highly esteemed in foreign courts, that extraordinary honours were paid to her envoys and ambassadors. She was loved and feared by her people; understood many languages; spoke with grace, and wrote with judgment; affable, generous, and grateful for past services; she was the protectress of literature, and the friend of the learned.

At the peace of Westphalia, she consulted the interests of Hesse Cassel so ably, that of all the princes concerned, none in proportion reaped greater advantages than her son, to whom, in 1650, she surrendered her dominions,

dominions, which had been considerably enlarged during the regency.

F. C.

HEYWOOD (ELIZA), *a most voluminous English Writer; born 1693; died 1756.*

HER latter and best works are, *Female Spectator*, 4 vols; *Epistles for the Ladies*, 2 vols; *Fortunate Foundling*, 1 vol; *Adventures of Nature*, 1 vol; *Betsy Thoughtless*, 4 vols; *Jenny and Jemmy Jessamy*, 3 vols; *Invisible Spy*, 2 vols; *Husband and Wife*, 2 vols. all in 12mo. and a pamphlet entitled, *A Present for a Servant Maid*. When young, she dabbled in dramatic poetry; but with no great success, none of her plays being either much approved at first, or revived afterwards.

HILDA (ST.) *Princess of Scotland,*

WAS learned in scripture, and composed many religious works. She opposed strenuously the tonsure of the priests, supposing it, perhaps, a superstitious or a heathenish observance. She built the convent of Fare, of which she became abbess, and died there in 685.

HILDEGARDIS, *a famous Abbess of the Order of St. Benedict, at Spanheim, in Germany,*

WHOSE prophecies are supposed to relate to the reformation, and to the destruction of the Romish see; and had great influence over the minds of people about the time of the Reformation. She flourished about the year 1146. The books in which these prophecies are

con-

contained are quoted in an old English ecclesiastical history, and appear to have been written by a zealous, godly, and understanding woman, disgusted with the vices of her own age, and foreseeing that they would still bring forth more. Shocked that crimes and hypocrisy should pollute that holy religion in which her hope was grounded. She wrote also a poem upon medicine, and a book of Latin poems.

HIPPARCHA, *a celebrated Lady, who flourished in the time of Alexander,*

ADDICTED herself to philosophy, and wrote some things which have not been transmitted down to us; among which were tragedies, philosophical hypotheses, or suppositions; some reasons and questions proposed to Theodorus, surnamed the Atheist, &c. She married the philosopher Crates, notwithstanding his poverty, deformity, and the opposition of her parents, conforming, from her love to learning, cheerfully to his way of life. She had a son by him, named Pasicles.

HIPPO,

THE daughter of Chiron the centaur, is numbered with the most celebrated Grecian philosophers.

F. C.

HOPTON (SUSAN), *of the Family of the Hoptons, in Staffordshire, Wife of Richard Hopton, of Kingston, in Hereford, one of the Welsh Judges in the reigns of Charles II. and James II. Born 1627; died 1709, aged 82.*

SHE, when very young, was induced by the arguments

ments of Turbeville, a Romish priest, to embrace his religion, but afterwards returned to the Protestant faith, and addressed a learned letter to him, in which she stated her reasons for doing so. She was extremely devout and charitable, devoting five days in every week to religious duties, and rising early, with other voluntary mortifications. A volume of her prose works on religious subjects were published, with a preface, containing an account of the author. She wrote and published also some religious poems.

Female Worthies.

HORTENSIA, *a Roman Lady, Daughter of Hortensius the Orator,*

OF great wit and eloquence, as a speech preserved by Appian demonstrates; which, for elegance of language, and justness of thought, would have done honour to a Cicero or Demosthenes. What gave occasion to it was, that the triumvirs of Rome wanted a large sum of money for carrying on a war; and having met with difficulties in raising it, they drew up a list of fourteen hundred of the richest of the ladies, intending to tax them. These ladies, after having in vain tried every method to evade so great an innovation, at last chose Hortensia for their speaker, and went along with her to the market-place, where she addressed the triumvirs, while they were administering justice, in the following words:

“ The unhappy women you see here imploring your justice and bounty, would never have presumed to appear in this place, had they not first made use of all other means their natural modesty could suggest. Though our appearing here may seem contrary to the rules prescribed to our sex, which we have hitherto
strictly

strictly observed, yet the loss of our fathers, children, brothers, and husbands, may sufficiently excuse us, especially when their unhappy deaths are made a pretence for our further misfortunes. You plead that they had offended and provoked you; but what injury have we women done, that we must be impoverished? if we are blameable as the men, why not proscribe us also? Have we declared you enemies to your country? Have we suborned your soldiers, raised troops against you, or opposed you in the pursuits of those honours and offices which you claim? We pretend not to govern the republic, nor is it our ambition which has drawn present misfortunes on our heads: empire, dignities, and honours, are not for us; why should we, then, contribute to a war in which we have no manner of interest? It is true, indeed, that in the Carthaginian war, our mothers assisted the republic, which was, at that time, reduced to the utmost distress; but neither their houses, their lands, nor their moveables, were sold for that service; some rings, and a few jewels, furnished the supply. Nor was it constraint or violence that forced these from them: what they contributed was the voluntary offering of generosity. What danger at present threatens Rome? If the Gauls or Parthians were encamped on the banks of the Tiber or the Anio, you should find us not less zealous in the defence of our country than our mothers were before us; but it becomes not us, and we are resolved that we will not be any way concerned in a civil war. Neither Marius, nor Cæsar, nor Pompey, ever thought of obliging us to take part in the domestic troubles which their ambition had raised; nay, nor did ever Sylla himself, who first set up tyranny in Rome, and yet you assume the glorious title of reformers of the state, a title which will turn to your eternal infamy,

infamy, if, without the least regard to the laws of equity, you persist in your wicked resolution of plundering those of their lives and fortunes who have given you no just cause of offence."

Struck with the justness of her speech, and offended at its boldness, the triumvirs ordered the women to be driven away; but the populace growing tumultuous, they were afraid of an insurrection, and reduced the list of those who should be taxed to four hundred.

Alexander's Hist. of Women.

HOULIERES (ANTOINETTE DU LIGIER DE LA GARDE, MADAME DES), *Daughter of Melchior Du Ligier, a Gentleman of good Family, but small Fortune, and born at Paris under the Reign of Louis XIII. in 1633 or 1638; died at Paris 1694;*

WAS so highly distinguished for her poetical talents, as to be ranked among the first of the French poets. She was well versed in Latin, Italian, and Spanish, in each of which she wrote with facility and elegance. She attached herself more particularly to the study of her own language and the rules of French poetry, her taste for which commenced at an early age; and though she possessed great beauty, both of face and figure, and was perfectly elegant and pleasing in her manners, she seemed ambitious only of acquiring that kind of admiration which flatters great minds.

But with all these advantages, Madame des Houlieres was far from being happy. Her works breathe every where murmurs against fortune. In 1651, at the age of eighteen, her parents married her to M. des Houlieres, lieutenant-colonel in the service of the Prince of Condé, who was obliged shortly after to accompany
that

that prince in his expedition to Rocroi, which was attended with success, and by which Monsieur des Houlières was raised in the army; but being led into extraordinary expences to support his newly-acquired honours, his affairs were thrown into the utmost embarrassment, and most of his effects seized. To add to his misfortunes, his pay was also stopped; upon which, Madame des Houlières went in person to court, and presented a petition in behalf of her husband; but no notice being taken of it, she made loud complaints, which was looked upon as a crime, and for which she was arrested, and conducted a prisoner to the castle of Vilvorden, two leagues from Brussels.

As soon as M. des Houlières was informed of his wife's confinement, he solicited her liberty; but finding there were little hopes of obtaining it, marched to Vilvorden with some soldiers, forced the fortress, and carried her off in triumph; but he would undoubtedly have suffered for this resolute action, had not a general pardon been at that very time proclaimed, of which he opportunely took advantage. He, however, obtained soon after employment in the king's service, and his wife pursued her poetical studies.

The earliest of her works that remain are of the year 1658. She composed a number of elegies, epigrams, songs, madrigals, odes, sonnets, idyls, and tragedies, but her idyls and moral reflections are the most esteemed. For a long time she contented herself with shewing her works to friends, who spread their reputation abroad; but, on their solicitation, she printed a volume in 1688, which met with general applause from people of taste. She was preparing a second when she died in the beginning of the second year of her widowhood, aged 56.

In the pastoral stile of writing, Madame des Houlières
has

has shewn uncommon genius. She was honoured with the friendship and esteem of the first personages of the age in which she lived, among whom were the dukes de Saint Agnan, de Montausier, de la Rochefoucault, de Nevers, the marshal de Vivonne, and the bishop of Nismes. Her talents procured her all the literary honours to which she was so justly entitled, being admitted into the academy of Arles, in Provence, and in that of the Ricovrati, at Padua; and the praises she gave to Louis XIV. in many of her works, obtained from this prince a pension of two thousand livres, which made her spend the evening of her days in comfort.

Her daughter inherited her mother's poetical talents, but in an inferior degree. Their works are usually bound up together.

Mrs. Thicknesse.

HUBERT (MADEMOISELLE), *a Protestant of Lyons, and a celebrated Writer; died 1753;*

WROTE on many subjects, and ventured on some theological enquiries, which, as she was a Protestant, might at that time have brought her into trouble. She was well acquainted with the English language, and translated the Spectators into French.

HULDAH, *a Jewish Prophetess, Wife of Shallum, a Man of high Family in the Time of Josiah;*

WHO, on reading the prophecies, was struck with horror at the misfortunes that were in store for his people. He sent to beg Huldah to appease heaven by her prayers, and turn away those judgments from her country-

men; but she answered, that the decrees of God were not to be changed, though particular piety, such as that of Josiah, should not go unrewarded.

Antiquities of the Jews.

HUNTINGDON (SELINA, COUNTESS DOWAGER OF), *second Daughter of Washington, second Earl Ferrers; born 1707; married, 1728, Theophilus, Earl of Huntingdon, by whom she had issue four Sons and three Daughters; and died 1797, aged 85, having been a Widow 45 Years.*

THIS lady is said to have received her first impressions on the importance of a religious life when only nine years old, at the funeral of a child about her own age. With many tears, she prayed earnestly upon the spot, that whenever it should please God to take her hence, he would support and deliver her. She practised during her youth frequent private prayer, and when grown up and introduced into the world, made it her petition that she might marry into a religious family. She accordingly became the wife of the earl of Huntingdon, a respectable man, whose habits and connections were serious and well disposed. Though sometimes at court, and visiting in the higher circles, she maintained a peculiar steadiness of conduct, taking no pleasure in fashionable amusements. In the country she was bountiful and benevolent, and earnestly pursued that path she thought most acceptable to her Maker.

About this time, the sect called Methodists began to be much spoken of. Lady Margaret Hastings, the sister of Lord Huntingdon, was one of the number, and Lady Huntingdon, on her recovery from a dangerous illness, embraced their opinions, and her profes-
sions

sions and conduct appeared very strange to the circle in which she moved. Some even advised Lord Huntingdon to interpose his authority; but, though he differed from her in sentiment, he continued to shew her the same affection and respect. He desired, however, she would oblige him by conversing with bishop Benson on the subject, to which she readily agreed; but the conference was not productive of any change.

During Lord Huntingdon's life, her means were necessarily circumscribed, and family affairs occupied her attention, but she devoted a considerable portion of time to the poor. These she relieved in their necessities, visited in sickness, conversed and prayed with. On his death, the entire management of her children and their fortunes was left to her, which last she improved with the greatest fidelity.

Countenancing more especially the followers of Mr. Whitfield, as she was herself inclined to the Calvinistic persuasion, she opened her house in Park-street for the preaching of the gospel, supposing, as a peeress of the realm, she had a right to employ, as her family chaplains, those ministers of the church whom she patronised. On the week days, her kitchen was open to the poor who wished for instruction; and on Sundays the great and fashionable were invited to spend the evening in her drawing-room, where Mr. Whitfield, Mr. Romaine, &c. occasionally preached.

The illness of her younger son leading her to Bright-helmstone, she erected a little chapel contiguous to her house: it was afterwards enlarged, and that not sufficing to contain the congregation, it was a third time taken down and rebuilt. In Bath, Oathall, Bretby, and various other parts, places of worship were also erected by her. At first, she selected her ministers from those of the

established church, but her zeal enlarging with her success, and a great variety of persons throughout the kingdom begging her assistance, in London, and many of the most populous cities, she purchased, built, or hired, large and commodious chapels. These multiplied exceedingly through England, Ireland, and Wales, and the ministers she had hitherto employed found themselves unequal to the task, and some became unwilling to move in a sphere which began to be branded as irregular, and to meet with opposition. She, therefore, followed the steps of Messrs. Wesley and Whitfield, by inviting the aid of laymen to keep up the congregations she had established.

In order to provide proper persons for this purpose, she retired into Wales, where she erected a college for training up young men to the ministry. They were itinerant, moved from one congregation to another in an established rotation, and her correspondence with them, to regulate and provide a constant supply, was a labour to which her active spirit alone was equal.

Though Lady Huntingdon devoted the whole of her substance to these purposes, it is not a little surprising how her income sufficed for the immensity of expences in which she was necessarily involved. Her jointure was no more than twelve hundred pounds a-year, and only after the death of her son, a few years preceding her own, she received the addition of another thousand. She often involved herself in expences in building, but her debts were always honourably discharged.

To the age of fourscore and upwards, she maintained all the vigour of youth; and, though in her latter years the contraction of her throat reduced her almost wholly to a liquid diet, her spirits never seem-
ed

ed to fail her, and to the very last days of her life, her mind was active in her favourite pursuit.

Lady Huntingdon was rather above the middle size, her mien dignified, her address particularly pleasing, and her mind acute, diligent, and indefatigable. She was so little given to self-indulgence, that a friend used to say, she was one of the poor who lived upon her own bounty. Her temper was warm and sanguine; no disappointment quenched her zeal, no labours slackened, no opposition discouraged, or progress of years abated—but her prejudices and partialities were sometimes fantastic. From the success attending her efforts, she seemed impressed with an idea that a particular benediction would rest upon whomsoever she sent forth, and was impatient of contradiction. That simplicity and truth which will always secure esteem from the wise, appears to have gained Lady Huntingdon the respect of many who disagreed with her in principle. Her son, who was unfortunately of the infidel school, still highly revered his venerable mother.

At her death, Lady Huntingdon left her chapels to trustees and executors for the continuance of the same plan, which is still pursued, though the property she left for that purpose was seized, on her death, by the Americans of Georgia and Carolina, where it lay.

Her unbounded benevolence bore the best testimony of the purity of her intentions, having, in the course of her life, expended above one hundred thousand pounds in public and private acts of charity.

Dr. Haweis' Hist. of the Church of Christ, &c.

HYPATIA,

A most beautiful, virtuous, and learned lady of antiquity, daughter of Theon, who governed the Platonic School at Alexandria, the place of her birth and education, in the latter part of the fourth Century. Socrates tells us, that Hypatia “arrived at such a pitch of learning, as very far to exceed all the philosophers of her time.” But our notions of her will be prodigiously heightened, when we consider, that succeeding her father, as she actually did, in the government of the Alexandrian School, she taught out of that chair where Ammonius, Hierocles, and many great and celebrated philosophers had taught; and this at a time, too, when men of immense learning abounded both at Alexandria and in many other parts of the Roman empire. She was murdered about 415, in consequence of the factions which rent that city, by the followers of St. Cyril.

I.

ICASIA.

THE emperor Theophilus having assembled the most beautiful young women of the empire, for the purpose of chusing a wife, fixed upon Icasia, and gave orders for her coronation; but on her answering some questions he proposed to her, in a manner at once learned and acute, he changed his mind. Icasia, therefore, retired into a monastery, where she composed many works.

F. C.

IRENE,

IRENE, *a Female Grecian Painter,*

DAUGHTER and disciple of Cratinus. She painted a child, which was hung up in the temple of Ceres.

Abec. Pitt.

IRENE, *Daughter of the King of Bulgaria, and Wife to Leo IV. Porphyrogenitus, Emperor of the East,*

WAS banished by her husband, because she hid images beneath her pillow, the worship or honorary homage of which the Greek church disapproved, and the emperor was particularly zealous against. But coming afterwards to the government, during the minority of her son Constantine, with whom she was associated in the empire, this ambitious princess re-established that worship, which she is said to have loved from policy no less than choice. Both artful and cruel, towards the close of the century, she deposed and murdered her son, by putting out his eyes, and reigned alone. She made Charlemagne, the new emperor of the west, a proposal of marriage. This proposal was made with a view to her Italian dominions, which she was informed he intended to seize; and the marriage treaty was actually concluded, when Nicephorus, the patrician, conspired against Irene, seized her in her bed, and banished her to a nunnery in the island of Lesbos.

After her fall, she requested to be allowed a decent competence, but was denied by those she had raised to splendour. She was forced to earn a scanty subsistence by her distaff, and died in penury the same year, 802.

During her reign, she had submitted to be tributary to

to the Saracens. She governed under the direction of two ambitious eunuchs, who were perpetually plotting against each other.

Russel's Modern Europe, Andrew's Great Britain.

ISABELLA, (*Daughter of Philip the Fair, King of France*) married to Edward II. King of England, in the Year 1303, or 1307.

THE follies and vices of this king laid the foundation for those of Isabella, who saw herself neglected by her husband, and insulted by his favourites. The scorn in which the people held this monarch was sometimes extended to his wife. She made a journey of devotion to Canterbury, and wished to lodge in a castle by the road side, but was denied admittance. The master, a discontented baron, was absent, and his wife refused to permit her entrance. The queen appearing to insist upon it, six persons of her suite were killed by the garrison. As the enemy of the Spencers, the then favourites of Edward, she ought to have been kindly received by his and their enemies; but they saw in her only the wife of a monarch they despised. Edward, accustomed to indignities, would have borne it, but Isabella would be revenged. He therefore presented himself in arms before the castle, which was taken by force; and the executions, by which this was followed, only served farther to irritate the spirits of the people.

Alienated from her husband, if she had ever loved him, and discontented with her situation, Isabella, under pretence of reconciling him with his brother, passed into France. Her real motive was very different, and she went to arm him against her husband, and to demand

SUCCOURS

succours against the Spencers, who continually insulted her. Whilst she was innocent, she would not have dared to have risked such an action ; but become culpable by the example of her husband, emboldened by her passion, and excited by the interest of a lover, Robert Mortimer, the most beautiful and accomplished knight of the age, she hazarded every thing.

It was not surely for the Spencers to be severe, nor for Edward to be jealous ; and the first should have contented themselves with governing the king, without persecuting her. They undertook, however, to inform him of his wife's infidelity, and Edward renounced her society : this perhaps was what both desired, and they should have stopped there ; but his favourites feared Mortimer more than Isabella. They sent him to the Tower of London ; he was twice condemned to death, and twice pardoned : they wished to retain him all his life in prison, but he escaped and fled to France : and the war rekindled between France and England, was a new pretence for the Spencers to persecute Isabella. They pretended she held intelligence with the enemy, and, under this pretence, Edward despoiled her of the county of Cornwall, which she enjoyed in virtue of a custom established then in France and in England, to give particular domains to the queens for the maintenance of their households.

After having, in this manner, attacked her in her inclinations and her fortune, they had the folly to send her to France, and thus confide to her the interests of the state. Her first words were complaints of an unjust husband and his insolent ministers. Charles the Fair, her brother, seeing her lament and weep, was touched with compassion, and promised to find a remedy for her sorrows.

rows. The council, however, agreed that they could not make war upon such a subject; but that the king might secretly assist her with money. Charles, rather diffidently, told his sister the answer, with which she appeared satisfied; and a peace being concluded, seemed to have fulfilled the object of her journey. Yet she remained in France, where Mortimer had joined her; and her brother, displeased with her conduct, saw her but seldom, treated her coldly, spoke little to her, but did not send her back.

Edward demanded her haughtily—one sees not why. Isabella answered, that she would not return till the Spencers were banished for ever. From this time she had the English people on her side. The Spencers condemned her and her sons, as enemies of the state, and declared war against France, without considering that this was the way to make Charles the Fair openly take her part; but this prince, consulting honour more than they did prudence, constantly refused his assistance to a sister whom he judged unworthy of it, and contented himself with giving her an asylum. Neither the arms, nor the intrigues of England, being able to make him send her back, the pope at length enforced it. She was therefore commanded to leave the kingdom speedily, or be driven from it with disgrace. He did more; gained, they say, as well as his council, by the money of England, he forbade any Frenchman to accompany Isabella to England, or to embrace her quarrel.

It appeared that the charms of this princess had gained her many partisans, as well in France as England. The earl of Kent, the king's brother, was come to join her. Robert d'Artois, her cousin, had a tender friendship for her, and all the zeal of chivalry. He

came

came in the middle of the night, to tell her that the council had resolved to arrest her, the earl of Kent, and Mortimer, in order to deliver them up to the English. He counselled her to retire into Hainault; and could not have given her better advice. She found there, in John, brother of the earl of Hainault, a new knight, yet more zealous, more affected by the recital of her sufferings, than Robert d'Artois had been; he vowed to replace her upon the throne of England; and when his brother, to whose second daughter the queen had married her son, prince Edward, represented the danger and uncertainty of such an enterprize, he answered, He had but one death to die, and every loyal knight ought to assist, to the utmost of his power, ladies in distress. He departed with 3000 men only, not doubting that a queen, so beautiful and unfortunate, would meet with defenders; and his romance proved true. He disembarked with her in a port of Sussex, where her army increased at every step. The king and the Spencers shut themselves up in Bristol. Isabella besieged and took it. The Spencers were put to death in a most cruel manner, and she began to be less interesting to her followers.

Her husband was shut up in the castle of Kenilworth, and Isabella sent to demand the great seal of him, to convoke the parliament, which was to depose him. He was deposed, degraded, and insulted; and the pity of the people began to be raised. The hypocritical tears which the impudent Isabella affected to shed for the fate of her husband, as if that fate had not depended upon her, but only upon the nation, could not impose upon them. She and Mortimer feared the effects of this pity.

The

The death of Edward was resolved, and that it might be without bodily marks, was executed in a manner too horrible to mention. The people could suffer it no longer, and her son shuddered to consider himself as an instrument to all these abominations. He made Mortimer be arrested in the anti-chamber of the queen, who, bathed in tears, and her voice stifled with sobs, cried, "My son! my dear son! spare the gentle Mortimer." But Edward was inexorable. Isabella was shut up in a castle. Some authors have said, that her days were shortened. The constant opinion is that she lived twenty-eight years in that prison. Froissard, a contemporary writer, says, "that she was well treated, that she had servants to attend, ladies to keep her company, gentlemen of honour to guard her, revenue sufficient to maintain her rank, and that the king, her son, came to see her two or three times a year." The last crime of Isabella and Mortimer was the beheading of the earl of Kent.

Gaillard.

ISABELLA, *of Bavaria, Daughter of the Duke of Bavaria; born A. D. 1371;*

ESTEEMED one of the greatest beauties of the age. Charles VI. king of France, on seeing her, became deeply enamoured, and married her at the age of fourteen, 1385; and Isabella, with the crown on her head, was conducted in a covered waggon to the cathedral of Amiens, where they received the nuptial benediction. Afterwards, when she made her public entry into Paris, the presents made, on the occasion, by the citizens, were carried to her apartment by two men, one of whom

whom was disguised as a bear, and the other as an unicorn.

In the year 1392, the king was attacked with that dangerous delirium which, except some lucid intervals, attended him through life ; and, in one of these, the queen, with four princes, were appointed guardians of the children. Hitherto Isabella had appeared as an affectionate wife ; but from the king's illness, and the attractions of the duke of Orleans, his brother, she began to regard her husband with disgust. Violent, vindictive, and intriguing, she had a heart open to flattery, and susceptible of every lawless passion. The power of the duke was supported by the queen ; and so intirely were they occupied by their pleasure and ambition, that the king and his children were often left without food and clothes !

The duke of Burgundy, a vile and ambitious man, called John the Fearless, envied the power and superiority of Orleans, and procured his assassination, in 1407. The greatness of this daring crime seemed to produce universal stupefaction ; but he soon made the king proclaim an approbation of his conduct, though arms were frequently had recourse to. In the queen's party, were the young princes of Orleans, headed by the count d'Armagnac, and thence called the Armagnac faction ; but Paris opening its gates to Burgundy, the queen and dauphin fled, and the most dreadful proscriptions followed. The mob became ungovernable by him who had raised it ; and Burgundy, in his turn, retiring with precipitation, the queen again entered Paris ; and instead of improving the moment, gave herself up to vicious pleasure ; of which Armagnac at length informed the king, who had hitherto been ignorant of her crimes, and he caused her to be confined at Tours. Isabella,
eager

eager for revenge, applied to the duke of Burgundy to release her ; and forgetful of her late inveterate hatred to the assassin of Orleans, she saw in a man, whose soul was familiarized to every deed of darkness, a fit instrument of her vengeance : he seized with joy the invitation, set her at liberty ; and, accompanied by her deliverer, she performed the first acts of her new administration at Chartres. A new seal was engraven for public deeds, representing on one side, the queen extending her arms towards the earth ; on the reverse, the arms of France and Bavaria. The title she assumed was : “ Isabella, by the grace of God, Queen of France, holding for my Lord, the King, the Government and Administration of this Kingdom, by the irrevocable Grant made to us by my said Lord and his Council.” Arriving at Troyes, she called a parliament, gave away many of the principal offices of state, and exercised the various functions of royalty.

At length a pacification was effected ; the queen and Burgundy were invited to Paris, and the latter with the dauphin associated in the government. But the dauphin was instructed to reject this infamous association ; and the people, who had hoped for peace and relief from the burdens of war and taxes, flew to acts of desperation, declaring themselves the partisans of Burgundy, who was still at Troyes with the queen. This vile couple intimating to them that nothing less than the total annihilation of the Armagnac party would engage them to re-enter Paris, inexpressible horrors were immediately committed by the blood-thirsty Parisians ; near 4000 being massacred in three days. Exulting in the success of their infernal schemes, the queen and her profligate associates now made their triumphal entry, with an escort of 1200 men at arms : the streets still stained
with

with blood, shed in their quarrel, by their orders were strewed with flowers, and the whole city re-echoed with music and sounds of joy. Isabella appearing in a car richly decorated, while her dress displayed her luxurious mind, alighted at the hotel of St. Paul's, where her husband awaited her arrival. She did not dread his presence ; but, superior to reproach, dead to remorse, and insensible to shame, the blush of modesty and conscience had long ceased to flush her cheek, which was alone tinged with the glow of vice.

The senseless monarch received her as a beloved wife, and his treacherous kinsman as an affectionate friend. They exercised sovereign authority in Paris, and the streets again flowed with blood. In this second massacre 14000 persons, of which 5000 were women, were murdered. Charles VI. died in 1422. The duke of Burgundy was afterwards assassinated at a conference with the dauphin, 1419 ; though it is thought by many he was not privy to the design.

Thus the ambitious, vindictive, and cruel Isabella publicly had twice seen the object of her affections murdered, and fired with indignation, she resolved to complete the infamy of her character. She had long since violated the duties of a wife and queen, and now determined to silence the voice of nature ; abjuring the name of mother, she immediately caused a violent declaration to be published, denouncing vengeance against the dauphin and his adherents, as murderers of the duke of Burgundy, ordering a dreadful proscription to be published every week, and then implored the assistance of England, which was in France every where victorious, and invited the son of Burgundy to join the common cause. Within a fortnight after the duke's death, Henry V. was offered the crown of France, with the princess Catherine ;

rine ; and entered into a treaty with the queen and new duke against the dauphin. Henry became king ; but, by his early death, Charles VII. recovered part of his dominions, and, in 1535, concluded a treaty with the duke of Burgundy. The grief and disappointment the unnatural Isabella felt at this success of her son, terminated her wretched existence. She died in 1435, despised by the English, and detested by the French.

Gyfford's France.

ISABELLA, *Queen of Spain.*

HENRY IV. king of Castile and Leon, having wearied out his subjects by his indolent and licentious life, in 1464, they declared him deposed, and elected his brother, Don Alphonso, a boy of twelve years of age, king in his stead. This extraordinary proceeding was followed by all the horrors of a civil war, which did not cease till some time after the death of the young prince. The archbishop of Toledo, the head of the party, continued to carry on war in the name of Isabella, the king's sister, to whom they gave the title of Infanta ; and Henry could not extricate himself out of those troubles, nor remain quiet upon his throne, till he had signed one of the most humiliating treaties ever extorted from a sovereign. He acknowledged his sister Isabella the only lawful heiress of his kingdom, in prejudice to the rights of his reputed daughter Joan, whom the malcontents affirmed to be the daughter of Don la Cueva, and the abandoned life of the queen gave a colour to the pretence.

The grand object of Isabella's party was her marriage ; upon which it was evident the security of the crown and the happiness of the people must in a great measure depend.

pend. The alliance was sought by several princes. The king of Portugal offered his hand ; the king of France demanded her for his brother ; and the king of Arragon for his son Ferdinand. The malcontents preferred the Arragonian prince, and Isabella prudently made the same choice. Articles were drawn up, and they were privately married by the archbishop of Toledo.

Henry was enraged at this alliance, which, he foresaw, would utterly ruin his authority, by furnishing his rebellious subjects with the support of a powerful neighbouring prince. He therefore disinherited his sister, and reestablished the right of his daughter. A furious civil war desolated the kingdom. The names of Joan and Isabella resounded from every quarter, and were every where the summons to arms. But peace was at length brought about, 1474. Henry was reconciled to his sister and to Ferdinand ; though it does not appear that he ever renewed her right to the succession ; for he affirmed, in his last moments, that he believed Joan to be his own daughter. The queen swore to the same effect ; and Henry left a testamentary deed, transmitting the crown to this princess, who was proclaimed queen of Castile, at Placentia. But the superior fortune and arms of Ferdinand and Isabella prevailed, and the king of Portugal was obliged to abandon his niece and intended bride, after many ineffectual struggles and several years of war. Joan sunk into a convent, when she hoped to ascend a throne ; and the death of Ferdinand's father, which happened about this time, added the kingdoms of Arragon and Sicily to those of Leon and Castile.

Ferdinand and Isabella were persons of great prudence,

dence, and, as sovereigns, highly worthy of imitation ; but they did not seem to have merited all the praises that were bestowed upon them by the Spanish historians. They did not live like man and wife, having all things in common ; but, like two princes in close alliance. They neither loved nor hated each other ; were seldom in company together, had each a separate council, and were frequently jealous of one another in the administration. But they were inseparably united in their common interests ; always acting upon the same principles, and forwarding the same ends. Their first object was the regulation of their government, which the civil wars had thrown into the greatest disorder. Rapine, outrage, and murder, were become so common, as not only to interrupt commerce, but, in a great measure, to suspend all intercourse between one place and another. These evils the joint sovereigns suppressed by their wise policy, at the same time that they extended the royal prerogative. By supporting a society, called the Holy Brotherhood, formed to apprehend and carry delinquents to punishment, and other salutary measures, prompt and impartial administration was restored, and with it tranquillity and order.

But, at the same time they were giving vigour to civil government, and securing their subjects from violence and oppression, an intemperate zeal led them, 1480, to establish an ecclesiastical tribunal, equally contrary to the natural rights of mankind and the mild spirit of the gospel, the Inquisition. The same zeal, however, which thus led to the depopulation and barbarising of Castile and Arragon, led also to their aggrandizement. The kingdom of Granada alone remained of all the Mahometan possessions in Spain.

Princes

Princes equally zealous and ambitious, like Ferdinand and Isabella, were naturally disposed to think of increasing their hereditary dominions, by expelling the enemies of Christianity, and extending its doctrines. Every thing conspired to favour this project, when, in 1483, Ferdinand entered Granada. He continued the war with rapid success. Isabella attended him in several expeditions, and they were once in great danger of being taken ; but at length, in 1492, the king of Granada capitulated, and his dominions were annexed to their crown ; which ended the empire of the Arabs in Spain, after it had continued about eight hundred years.

The great Columbus, a Genoese navigator, who, perfectly acquainted with the figure of the earth, conceived the idea of another hemisphere, after having, unsuccessfully, applied to his countrymen and to Portugal, for means to make this grand discovery, had laid his proposals before the court of Spain, where he had long suffered all that supercilious neglect which unsupported merit so often meets with from men of office, who are too apt to despise what they do not understand.

Ferdinand and Isabella were then engaged in the conquest of Granada. The Spanish treasury was exhausted ; but no sooner were the Moors subdued, but the ambitious mind of Isabella seemed to sympathize with the bold spirit of Columbus. She offered to pledge her jewels, in order to furnish him with a fleet ; and by her means it was effected. On his return, he was much honoured, ordered into the presence of Ferdinand and Isabella, and desired to sit covered, like a grandee. Royal favour beamed on him with unremitting brightness ; and the pope having issued a bull, granting to

the sovereigns of Spain all the lands they had or should discover, an hundred leagues to the westward of Azores, a larger and well-furnished fleet was assigned him. He went ; but though he prosecuted his discoveries with the greatest success, a new governor of Hispaniola, a place he had conquered and colonized, was appointed, and he was sent home in chains. His patroness, queen Isabella, was no more, and he died a martyr to the ingratitude of Ferdinand in an obscure retreat at Valladolid.

Russel's Modern Europe.

ISAURA, (CLEMENTIA) *a Lady of Toulouse, in the 14th Century, celebrated for her Learning.*

It is believed she instituted the Jeux Floraux there, where prizes were bestowed on the successful poetical competitors. She at least left to it a considerable bequest.

F. C.

ISJE, (*a Japanese Princess*), born 868,

WHOSE works are still said to be highly esteemed in Japan.

F. C.

ISEA,

A PROVENÇAL poetess.

F. C.

ISOTA

ISOTA VERONENSIS,

WROTE eloquent epistles to popes Nicholas V. and Pius II.; also a Dialogue, in which it was disputed whether Adam or Eve sinned first.

ITHA, (*Daughter of Godfrey, Count of Calw, and Wife of Guelph, or Welfo, Governor of Bavaria, on the death of his Brother, Henry the Haughty, who having aspired to the Empire, in Opposition to Conrad, who had been unanimously elected, died in the Contest.*)

THE war, however, was still carried on by his brother Guelph, who, with his principal followers, were besieged in the castle of Weinsberg; and having sustained great loss in a sally, were obliged to surrender at discretion. The emperor, however, instead of using his good fortune with rigour, granted the duke and his chief officers permission to retire unmolested. But Itha, suspecting the lenity of Conrad, with whose enmity against her husband she was well acquainted; and trusting more to the romantic and capricious notions of honour in the age, than to simple generosity, begged that she and the other women in the castle, might be allowed to come out with as much as each of them could carry, and be conducted to a place of safety. The request was granted, and the evacuation immediately performed; when the emperor and his army, who expected to see every one loaded with jewels, gold, and silver, beheld, to their astonishment, the duchess and her fair companions, staggering beneath the weight of their husbands. The tears ran down Conrad's cheeks; he applauded their conjugal tenderness, and

an accommodation with Guelph and his adherents was the consequence of this act of female heroism. This affecting incident happened in the year 1141.

JAND BIBI, *Queen of Deccan, in Hindostan, in the 16th Century,*

WAS a wise and able princess. She maintained her dominions in peace and prosperity, and repulsed, with success, the attacks of the Moguls, who wished to subjugate them to their emperor.

F. C.

JANE, *Daughter of Henry I, King of Navarre, married 1284, at the Age of 13, to Philip the Fair, King of France. Died 1304, aged 33.*

THIS prince had the same good fortune as his rival, our Edward the First, in being tenderly and faithfully attached to his wife, and in possessing a woman of courage, sense, and virtue, “who held,” says Mezeray, “every one chained by the eye, ear, and heart, being equally beautiful, eloquent, and generous.” The count de Bar, kinsman to the king of England, invaded Champagne, the patrimony of Jane, who went in person to defend it, gave battle to the enemy, delivered orders herself in the midst of the combat, vanquished and took prisoner the count de Bar, whom she brought in triumph to Paris. She governed Navarre and Champagne, the administration of which the king always left to her, with wisdom, as she defended them with bravery. She founded, with royal magnificence, the college of Navarre, a long time the school of the French nobility,

nobility, and the honour of the university of Paris, and was the protectress of the learned.

Rivalite de la France et de l'Angleterre, &c.

JANE, *Countess of Montfort, flourished 1341 and 1342.*

The count de Montfort, heir male of Brittany, had seized that duchy in opposition to Charles of Blois, the French king's nephew, who had married the granddaughter of the late duke. Sensible that he could expect no favour from Philip, Montfort made a voyage to England, and offered to do homage to Edward III. as king of France, for Brittany, proposing a strict alliance for the support of each other's pretensions.

Little negociation was necessary to conclude a treaty between two princes connected by their immediate interests. But the captivity of the count, who was taken prisoner by the enemy, which happened soon after, seemed to put an end to all the advantages naturally to be expected from it. The affairs of Brittany, however, were unexpectedly retrieved by Jane of Flanders, daughter of Lewis, count de Nevers, and wife of De Montfort. Roused by the captivity of her husband from those domestic cares to which she had hitherto entirely confined herself, she boldly undertook to support the falling fortunes of her family. When she received the fatal intelligence, instead of giving way to despair, the failing of weak minds, she instantly assembled the inhabitants of Rennes, where she then resided, and taking her infant son in her arms, conjured them to extend their protection to the last male heir of their ancient sovereigns; expatiated on the resources to be derived from England, entreating them to make one daring effort against an usurper, who, being allied to France, would
sacri-

sacrifice their ancient liberty as the price of assistance. In short, she harangued them in a strain so bold and so pathetic, that it spoke to their hearts, and inspired them with a portion of her own enthusiastic ardour: they resolved to defend her with their lives and fortunes. She then made a progress through all the other fortresses of the duchy, and induced them to adopt of similar measures; visited the garrisons, and provided every thing necessary for sustenance and defence; and having secured the whole province from surprise, shut herself up in Hennebonne, attending the English succours, and sent her son over to England. Charles of Blois opened the campaign, expecting soon to terminate a war merely conducted by a woman. Rennes soon surrendered to him. He next proceeded to Hennebonne, where the brave countess commanded in person. The garrison, actuated by her presence, made a vigorous defence. She herself performed prodigies of valour; clad in complete armour, she stood foremost in the breach, sustained the most violent assaults, and flying with active vigilance from post to rampart, encouraged her troops, and displayed skill that would have done honour to the most experienced general. Perceiving, one day, that the besiegers, occupied in a general attack, had left their camp unguarded, she immediately sallied forth by a postern with five hundred men, set fire to their tents, baggage, and magazines, and created so universal an alarm, that the enemy desisted from the assault, to cut off her communication with the town. Finding herself intercepted, she galloped towards Auray, which she reached in safety. Five days after, she returned with her little army, cut her way through part of the camp, and entered the town in triumph.

At length, however, so many breaches were made in the walls by reiterated assaults, that the place was deemed no longer tenable, and the bishop of Leon, notwithstanding the prayers and remonstrances of the countess, had determined to capitulate; he was actually engaged in a conference respecting it with Charles of Blois, when the countess, who had ascended a lofty tower, and was casting an eager look towards the sea, descried a fleet at a distance. She instantly ran into the streets, and exclaimed, in a transport of joy—"Succours! succours! the English succours! no capitulation!" Nor was she mistaken: the English fleet soon after entered the harbour, and the troops, under the command of Sir Walter Manny, sallied from the city, attacked the camp of the besiegers, and reduced it to ashes. "On Sir Walter's return from this successful expedition," says Froissard, "the countess went forth to meet him with a joyful countenance, and kissed him and his companions two or three times, like a valiant lady." Edward himself afterwards undertook her defence. The count, who had been released through a treaty between England and Philip, still attempting to defend his rights, was slain, and Edward undertook the cause of his son. Afterwards, in 1346, Charles of Blois having come with his troops to the assistance of a fortress she had reduced, she attacked him in his entrenchments in the night, dangerously wounded, and took him prisoner.

Gifford's France. Modern Europe, &c.

JANE,

JANE, *Countess of Westmoreland, eldest Daughter of Henry, Earl of Surrey, who was beheaded 1546-7; Wife of Charles, Earl of Westmoreland, by whom she had four Daughters.*

THIS lady made such a surprising progress in the Latin and Greek tongues, under the instruction of Mr. Fox, the Martyrologist, that she might stand in competition with the most learned men of that age. The latter part of her life was rendered very unhappy by the misconduct of her husband, who engaged in an insurrection in the north, in 1569, for which he was adjudged a traitor; and in consequence his goods and lands were confiscated, and himself sentenced to death, which he escaped by fleeing beyond sea, where he lived long in exile.

Female Worthies.

JARDINS (MARY CATHARINE DES), *a French Lady, in the 17th Century, Native of Alençon, in Normandy, where her Father was Provost. Died 1683.*

At the age of nineteen or twenty, reflecting on the smallness of her fortune, she went to Paris, where, though she had little beauty, she soon became sought for the charms of her understanding. M. Ville-Dieu, an amiable man, possessed of a good fortune, paid his addresses to her, and married her; but it was not long before his death plunged her in grief, and she retired to a nunnery; but, being a woman of spirit and vivacity, did not continue long there, but came again into the world, and married, secondly, M. de la Chate, whom she also buried. Being greatly afflicted with this new misfortune, she absolutely renounced

ced marriage, yet her ear was always open to love addresses, which she answered in little poems and letters.

By one of her letters, wherein she gives a very agreeable description of the Hague, it appears she had been in Holland. She is said to be the inventor of novels or romances taken from familiar life and incident, which she wrote with such a pleasant vivacity, that the long romances of eight or ten volumes, as those of *Cyrus*, *Cleopatra*, *Cassandra*, &c. were seldom read afterwards. Mr. Bayle tells us, that at first she set out in this long way, and laid a plan to contain one of several volumes, designing to represent under fictitious names, and with some alterations, the adventures of a great lady, who married beneath her dignity; but, being threatened with the resentment of the persons concerned, dropped her design, and devised the new way of novels. Her works were soon after printed in ten volumes, and reprinted at Paris in 1702.

JOAN, *Queen of Naples.*

ON the death of Robert of Anjou, king of Naples, in 1343, his kingdom, which was in a flourishing condition, descended to his grand-daughter Joan, who had married his relation, Andrew, brother to Lewis of Anjou, elected king of Hungary; a match which seemed to cement the happiness and prosperity of that house, but proved the source of all its misfortunes. Andrew pretended to reign in his own right; and Joan, though but eighteen years of age, insisted that he should only be considered as the queen's husband. A Franciscan friar, called brother Robert, by whose advice Andrew was wholly governed, lighted up the flames
of

of hatred and discord between the royal pair; and the Hungarians, of whom Andrew's court was chiefly composed, excited the jealousy of the Neapolitans, who considered them as barbarians. It was therefore resolved, in a council of the queen's favourites, to put Andrew to death. He was accordingly strangled in his wife's antichamber; and Joan married the prince of Tarentum, who had been publicly accused of the murder of her husband, and was well known to have been concerned in that bloody deed. How strong a presumption of her own guilt!

In the mean time, Lewis, king of Hungary, brother to the murdered Andrew, wrote to Joan, that he would revenge his death on her and her accomplices. He accordingly, in 1348, set out for Naples by the way of Venice and Rome, carrying along with him a black standard, on which was painted the most striking colours of his brother's murder. He ordered a prince of the blood, and one of the accomplices in the regicide, to be beheaded. Joan and her husband fled into Provence, where, finding herself utterly abandoned by her subjects, she waited on pope Clement VI. at Avignon, a city of which she was sovereign as countess of Provence, and which, with its territories, she sold to that pontiff. Here she pleaded her cause in person before the pope, and was acquitted.

Clement's kindness did not stop here. In order to engage the king of Hungary to quit Naples, he proposed that Joan should pay him a sum of money; but, as ambition or avarice had no share in his enterprize, he generously replied, "I am not come hither to sell my brother's blood, but to revenge it!" and, as he had partly effected his purpose, he went away, 1352, though the kingdom of Naples was in his power.

Joan

Joan recovered her dominions only to become more wretched; for on the death of Clement, the Italians raised Urban VI. to the pontificate, and the French chose Clement VII. This occasioned a civil war in Italy; but at length Urban prevailed, and Clement, being expelled, retired to Avignon, the former residence of the French pontiffs, and Joan first experienced the effects of the former's vengeance.

This princess had imprudently espoused the cause of Clement; had been four times married, on the death of the prince of Tarentum to the prince of Main, whom she beheaded for having a mistress, and then to Otho of Brunswick, with whom she lived happily; but had no children by any of her husbands; she therefore adopted Charles de Durazzo, the heir to her kingdom, and the only remaining descendant of the house of Anjou in Naples. But Durazzo, unwilling to wait for the crown till her death, associated himself with pope Urban; who crowned him king of Naples, at Rome, in 1380, on condition he should bestow the principality of Capua on his nephew; deposed Joan, and declared her guilty of heresy and high treason.

These steps being taken, the pope and Durazzo marched towards Naples in 1382. The church plate and lands were sold to facilitate the conquest. Joan, mean while, was destitute of both money and troops. In this extremity, she invited to her assistance Lewis of Anjou, brother to Charles V. of France. But Lewis, whom she had adopted in the room of the ungrateful Durazzo, arrived too late to defend his benefactress, or dispute the kingdom with his competitor. The pope and Durazzo entered Naples, after having defeated and taken prisoner Otho, the queen's husband. All resistance appeared vain, she attempted to flee, but fell
into

into the hands of the usurper, who, in order to give colour to his barbarity, declared himself the avenger of the murdered Andrew. Lewis, king of Hungary, was consulted in regard to her fate, and replied, she must suffer the same death she had inflicted on his brother, and Durazzo ordered her to be smothered between two mattresses in 1383. Thus perished the famous Joan, queen of Naples, of no moral virtue, but a woman of magnificence and generosity, a lover of learning, and a patroness of learned men: she was celebrated by Petrarch and Boccace, and her life and catastrophe have a singular resemblance to those of Mary, queen of Scotland.

Modern Europe.

JEZEBEL, *Daughter of Ethbaal, King of Sidon, and Wife of Ahab, King of Israel,*

FAMOUS in Scripture for encouraging her husband in injustice; for her cruelty, impiety, and hatred of the prophets. Thrown from the top of her palace by the orders of Jehu, successor to Ahab, whom she had attired and painted herself to attract. Her body was devoured by dogs, 884 B. C.

F. C.

JUDITH, *a Widow of Bethulia, in Judea, of the Tribe of Simeon.*

WHEN this city was reduced to the utmost extremity by Holofernes, Judith was struck with the idea that she perhaps might save her country. She was a woman of majestic beauty, and dressing herself with great splendour, repaired to the camp of the general, who was smitten

smitten with her charms, and received her with joy. The same day he invited her to supper with him, and during the repast became drunk with wine, in which situation his attendants placed him on the bed, and left him. Judith no sooner saw the coast clear, than she took his sword, cut off his head, and carried it off in a bag to Bethulia, where she was received with applause and gratitude. In the morning the Assyrians found the dead body of Holofernes, and took to flight.

F. C.

JUDITH, *Queen of Abyssinia.*

MENILEK, the son of Solomon and the queen of Sheba, or Saba, having brought over from Jerusalem the books of the law of Moses, and many learned doctors, to instruct his people in the faith, established the succession of his family to the throne; and his people embracing the Jewish religion, remained in it till about the year 330 after Christ, or a few years later, when they received the Gospel; but the crown continued in the same family, as it has done till the present day, with only two interruptions, one of which is the subject of this article, in the tenth or eleventh century.

In one family of the Jews, an independent sovereignty had always been preserved on the mountain of Sammen, and the royal residence was upon a high-pointed rock, called the Jew's Rock. Several other inaccessible mountains served as natural fortresses for these people, now grown very considerable, in consequence of accessions of strength from Palestine and Arabia, whence the Jews had been expelled. Gideon and Judith were then king and queen, and their daughter Judith (whom in Amhara they call *Esther*, and sometimes *Saat*, i. e. *fire*),

fire), a woman of great beauty and talents for intrigue, had been married to the governor of a small district called Bugua, in the neighbourhood of Lasta, both which countries were likewise much infested with Judaism.

Judith, in fine, had made so strong a party, that she resolved to attempt the subversion of the christian religion, and with it the succession in the line of Solomon. The children of the royal family were, in virtue of the old law, confined on the almost inaccessible mountains of Damo, in Tigrè. The short reign, sudden and unexpected death, of the king Aizor, and the weak state of Del Naad, who was to succeed him, yet an infant, with the desolation an epidemical disease had spread both in court and capital, impressed her with the idea that now was the time to place her own family on the throne, and extirpate the race of Solomon. Accordingly she surprised the rock Damo, and slew all the princes there, to the amount, it is said, of four hundred. Some nobles of Amhara, upon the first news of the catastrophe at Damo, conveyed the infant king Del Naad, now the only remaining prince of his race, into the powerful and loyal province of Shoa, and by this means the royal family was preserved to be again restored. Judith, nevertheless, took possession of the throne in defiance of the laws of the queen of Saba. By this, the first interruption of the line of Solomon; and contrary to what might have been expected from the violent means she had used to acquire the crown, not only enjoyed it herself during a long reign of forty years, but transmitted it to five of her descendants. After this, the line of Solomon was restored in the descendants of Del Naad, who, in the mean time, had continued their residence at Shoa, without making one attempt, as far

as history tells us, towards recovering their ancient kingdom.

Bruce's Travels.

JULIA, *Daughter of a Priest of the Sun in Syria, Wife of the Roman Emperor Septimus Severus, who married her because it had been predicted she was born to Royalty, and by whom she had Caracalla and Geta.*

UPON the throne passionately loved, or appear to love, literature; either from taste, from a desire of instruction, from a love of renown, or possibly from all these together, she passed her life with philosophers.

Her imperial rank, perhaps, was not sufficient to conquer noble hearts, but she joined to it the charms of wit and beauty. These various attractions rendered unnecessary that management which consists in cunning, and which, by observing dispositions and foibles, governs great souls by little means. She obtained the title of philosopher, but her philosophy was not equal to endowing her with morals. Her husband, who did not love her, esteemed her genius, and consulted her upon all affairs; and she, in some measure, governed during the reign of her sons, though she had the misfortune of seeing one slain by his execrable brother, whose excesses she inwardly mourned at, when she dared not openly condemn.

Julia was, in short, an empress and a politician, occupied at once by the sciences, affairs of state, and pleasure. She had courtiers for her lovers, men of worldly knowledge for her friends, and philosophers for her courtiers. In the midst of an enlightened society, she presided with distinction; but for want of the more solid merits of a female character she obtained,

during life, more praise than respect, and from posterity more fame than esteem.

Essay by M. Thomas.

JULIA MÆSA, *Grandmother of the Emperor Heliogabalus*,

A GRAND politician, and a virtuous woman; who, though her ambition was gratified by seeing him seated on the throne, chiefly by her conduct and courage, strove to counteract the bad counsels of his mother, and to bring him back to common sense and duty. She saw that the Romans would not long bear such a shameful yoke, and to retain the sovereignty, in that case, to her family, she engaged the emperor, who still retained his respect for her, to adopt his cousin Alexander Severus for his successor. Thus did the wisdom of Mæsa second her ambition; and, while Heliogabalus and his mother were massacred by the soldiers, she attained a happy old age, universally loved and respected, and the emperor Alexander Severus, her grandson, had her placed in the list of divinities.

F. G.

JULIA MAMMEA, *Mother of Alexander Severus*,

HAD also equal genius and courage; and, above all, she educated her son for the throne, in the same manner as Fenelon afterwards educated the duke of Burgundy, rendering him at the same time a man of virtue and sensibility. Severus thought so highly of his mother, that he did nothing without her counsel, and paid more deference to it than to that of any other person. This princess having heard of Origen, wished to see him,
and

and in the conferences they had together, conceived so high an opinion of christianity, that she is supposed to have embraced it. She was murdered with her son, in Gaul, by the discontented soldiery.

Essay by M. Thomas, &c.

JULIANA, (*Anchoret of Norwich*)

LIVED in the reign of Edward III. and distinguished herself by a book of Revelations she wrote. But though she was author of so remarkable a work, and her situation in life so very singular, yet through the negligence of ecclesiastics (who were almost the only men that transmitted intelligence to posterity) we find but very little recorded concerning her. Even our most curious and industrious biographers, who had the best opportunity of examining manuscripts and records belonging to religious houses, could not trace out any memorials relating to this devout lady, more than an hint or two mentioned by herself in her own writings.

R. F. Jo. Gascoyn, L. Abbot of Lambspring, ushered her compositions into the world, with the following title: *Sixteen Revelations of divine Love, shewed to a devout Servant of our Lord, called Mother Juliana, an Anchoret of Norwich; who lived in the Days of King Edward III. Published by F. R. S. Crossy, 1610. Vo.*

“ Her profession was of the strictest sort of solitary livers, being inclosed all her life (alone) within four walls; whereby though all mortals were excluded from her dwelling, yet saints and angels, and the Supreme King of both, could and did find admittance. Moreover, the place, in a high manner dignified by her abode, was Norwich. The time when she lived, and

particularly when these celestial visitations were afforded her, she herself, in the beginning of the book, informs us, was in the year 1373, that is, about three years before the death of the famous conqueror king Edward III; at which time she herself was about thirty years of age. And, in the last chapter of the book, she signifies that more than fifteen years after these revelations had been shewed her, for resolution of a certain doubt of her's, touching the meaning of one of them, our Lord himself was pleased to answer internally in ghostly understanding."

"As for the manner of these revelations, it was the same of which we read innumerable examples, both among ancient and modern saints. The objects of some of them were represented to the imagination, and, perhaps also, to the outward sight; sometimes they were represented in sleep, but, most frequently, when she was awake. But those which were more pure in time, and withal more certain, were wrought by a divine illapse into the spiritual part of the soul, the mind, and understanding, which the devil cannot counterfeit, nor the patient comprehend, though withal it excluded all doubt or suspicion of illusion."

"She was far from expecting or desiring such unusual supernatural gifts. Matters stood thus with her: she thought herself too much unmortified in her affections to creatures, and too unsensible of our Lord's love to her. Therefore to cure the former, she requested a sickness in extremity, even to death, in her own and other's conceit; a sickness full of bitter pain and anguish, depriving her of all outward refreshments, and of all inward comforts also, which might affect the sensual portion of the soul. And, for a remedy to the latter, she begged of the Lord, that he would imprint on her

her soul, by what way he thought best, a deep and vigorous conception and resentment of those most violent torments, which he in his infinite love, suffered for her on the cross, to the end, that she might even be forced to return to him a suitable affection."

"Yet in making these requests, she expressed a perfect resignation (as to the manner) to his heavenly will. The only graces that she did, and might, and so may we, desire absolutely, without any condition, were a true and spiritual hatred and contempt of herself, and of all worldly or sensual contentments; a perfect sorrow and compunction for sin past, and a cordial love and reverence of Almighty God. These were the gifts she desired; and as for the means of procuring those graces, she proposed the best to her seeming; yet so, as being assured that God knew what was best for her, she left them to his divine pleasure."

Of this nun, who appears to have possessed an amiable and refined understanding, though wild and misguided by her solitary life, we have no farther account.

Female Worthies.

JULIEN, (MARIA LOUISA ANGELICA LEMIRE) *Wife of the Lord of;*

A FRENCH lady, well known for her mathematical knowledge, particularly by a work called, *Le Quadricide, ou Paralogisme prouvé Geometriquement dans la Quadrature de M. de Causans*, 14to. 1755.

Letters on the French Nation.

K.

KHAULA, (*an Arabian Heroine*)

AMONGST this warlike and unsettled nation, when the flower of any tribe went upon a distant enterprize, some hostile neighbours would often attack those they had left behind, and thence arose, perhaps, the custom of the Arabian women, even of the highest rank, attending their husbands, fathers, and brothers, in their military expeditions, and fighting, often with a degree of heroism not inferior to the fabled achievements of the ancient Amazons. We have many instances of the day having been restored by them after the men had fled; but none more remarkable than the famous battle of Yermouks, fought in the year 636, which proved decisive of the fate of Syria, and of the Greek empire of the east.

The Grecians greatly out-numbered the Arabians, and their onset was so impetuous that they drove them to their tents: there the fugitives were stopped by the women, who alternately encouraged and reproached them; they threatened even to join the Greeks; and one of their bravest officers appearing disposed for flight, a lady knocked him down with a tent pole, saying, "Advance; paradise is before your face! Fly, and the fire of hell is at your back!" The chief women then took the command, and made head, till night parted the combatants. The next day they led them again to the attack, a young lady, named Khaula, sister to one
of

of the principal commanders, acting as general. In leading the van, she was beaten to the ground by a Greek; when Wafeira, one of her female friends, striking off his head at a blow, brought the heroine off. Animated by the noble behaviour of the women, the Arabs soon became irresistible, and routed the Grecian army, with the loss, it is said, of 150,000 killed, and about 50,000 prisoners. Khaulî was afterwards espoused by the khalîf Ali.

“ Nothing is so disgusting as unnecessary bravadoes, or uselessly running into dangers in women. They have seldom any opportunity or rather need of being heroines, except by suffering with patience and fortitude whatever pains and misfortunes may fall to their lot in this life. But sometimes there are occasions which awaken active courage; and when duty or compassion call for more than customary exertions, they must want even *feminine* excellence to be deaf to it; and bereft of generosity, sense and feeling, to be helpless at such a juncture.”

Richardson's Dissertation on Eastern Nations.

KETAVANE, (or MARIANNE) *Wife of Alexander, King of Georgia, in the Beginning of the 17th Century,*

ON the death of her husband, took upon her the administration of affairs, and preserved the throne for her eldest son.

In 1613, Abbas, king of Persia, having declared war against the Georgians, her son, who had received the reins of government, perceiving that many of the nobility inclined to submission, sent his mother to Ispahan,

han, to demand pardon for him. As Ketavane was yet beautiful, though stricken in years, Abbas fell, or pretended to fall, violently in love with her at first sight. He offered to marry her, if she would become a Mahometan ; but she refused, and he kept her in prison and in irons for many years. At last she was sent to Schiraz, where she died under the torments inflicted upon her by the order of Abbas, to make her embrace Islamism.

F. C.

KILLIGREW, (KATHARINE) *fourth Daughter of Sir Anthony Cooke ; born at Giddy-hall, in Essex, 1530 ; was married to Henry Killigrew, Esq. afterwards knighted ;*

AND has had a place justly assigned her among the learned ladies of the age, though she does not appear to have been the author of any distinct and separate treatise. Her natural genius being improved by the same excellent education which was bestowed upon her sisters, she became famous for her knowledge in the Hebrew, Greek, and Latin tongues, and for her skill in poetry. A short specimen of her talent in that art has been preserved by Sir John Harrington and Dr. Thomas Fuller. On the monument erected to her memory, is an inscription composed by herself. Both the small pieces we have mentioned were written in Latin.

The death of lady Killigrew was lamented in various epitaphs. Her sister, Lady Russel, wrote one, partly in Greek and partly in Latin verse. We know not when she died ; only it appears, by her father's will, she was living in 1576, and that she lies buried in the church of St.

St. Thomas, in Vintry ward, London, where is an elegant monument erected to her memory.

New Annual Register, &c.

KILLIGREW, (ANNE) *poetically called ORINDA, Daughter of Dr. Henry Killigrew, Master of the Savoy, and one of the Prebendaries of Westminster, Author of Sermons, Plays, &c. Born in London a little before the Reformation.*

“ SHE was,” as Mr. Wood says, “ a grace for beauty, and a muse for wit,” and gave the earliest discoveries of a great genius; which, being improved by a polite education, she became eminent in the arts of poetry and painting.” Mr. Dryden seems quite lavish in her commendation; but Mr. Wood assures us, he has said nothing of her, which she was not equal, if not superior to. Thus speaks Mr. Dryden :

“ Art she had none, yet wanted none,
For nature did that want supply,
So rich in treasure of her own,
She might our boasted stores defy :
Such noble vigour did her verse adorn,
That it seem'd borrow'd where 'twas only born.”

She was a great proficient in the art of painting, and drew the duke of York, afterwards king James II. and also the Duchess, to whom she was maid of honour. She drew several historical pieces, also some portraits, or her diversion, and likewise some pieces of still life. Mr. Becket drew her picture in mezzotinto, after her own painting, which is prefixed to her poems. These engaging and polite accomplishments were the least of her

her perfections ; for she crowned all with an exemplary piety, and unblemished virtue. She died of the small pox, 1685, in the 25th year of her age. Upon which Mr. Dryden lamented her death in a very long ode.

She was buried in the chapel of the Savoy hospital, on the north side of which is a neat monument of marble and free stone, fixed in the wall, with a Latin inscription. Soon after her death, was published a book, entitled, *Poems by Mrs. Anne Killigrew, London, 1686*, in a large thin quarto.

Female Worthies.

L.

LABANA, *a Moorish Spaniard, of a noble Family at Corduba, Secretary and Counsellor to Alhakemo, King of Spain,*

A most accurate poetess, skilled also in philosophy and arithmetic ; died universally regretted in the flower of her age, and the 374th year of the Hegira.

Bibliothecæ Arabico-Hispanæ Escorialiensis.

LABE' (LOUISA), *surnamed la Belle Cordiere, because her Husband was a Rope-maker. Born at Lyons, 1527 ;*

ONE of the most distinguished poets of her time, gained great celebrity in the reign of Henry II. by her wit and genius. She shewed an early disposition for languages and the polite arts : but what was still more extraordinary, she was a heroine ; and the poets of her age have celebrated her martial exploits. We are ignorant

rant of the motives which induced her to pursue that kind of life; all we can learn is, that she served at the siege of Perpignan before she was sixteen years of age, where she took the name of Captain Loys. There is some reason to conclude, however, that she either followed her father or her lover to the field; but the ill success of the besiegers obliged them to abandon the place, which determined the beautiful Lyonnoise to return home and pursue her studies. Nor was she inattentive to her future interest; but endeavoured to preserve an establishment which might enable her to enjoy tranquillity and affluence the rest of her life: for soon after she married Ennemond Perrin, a rich merchant, who held a considerable traffic in cordage, and who possessed a very large estate near Lyons, where he had a house nobly furnished, and gardens which were very spacious and magnificent.

There she collected a large library of the very best authors, and her house was the constant rendezvous of persons of distinction, and men of letters, who live in or near Lyons. It was an academy where every one found something which might either amuse or instruct. The charms of wit, conversation, music (vocal and instrumental) and poetry, were all employed by the muse who presided there, and who was excellent herself in all. Her cabinet was copiously supplied with books in the vulgar tongue, in Latin, Italian, and Spanish; and it formed a part of the amusement of her house to read the best authors in each.

It is with regret I recite what a French writer says farther; speaking of this extraordinary woman; "Gallantry," says he, "was not excluded from this agreeable place of study and science. The lovely Louisa was not willing there should be any thing wanting to complete

plete the general satisfaction of her visitors; but she preferred men of rank and letters to those who were possessed of both birth and fortune." One cannot but lament that she should thus have sullied such exalted taste and genius.

The distinguished manner in which Louisa lived at Lyons excited the jealousy of the ladies of that city. They overlooked her fine sense and accomplishments, and considered her only as a tradesman's wife; from whence they suspected that the assemblies held at her house were more owing to her beauty than to her uncommon talents. But what increased this resentment was her writings, which, treating of love, they considered as so many lures to induce the men to attach themselves to her; but Louisa, in return, levelled part of her works at the Lyonnoise ladies, censuring them for the frivolous manner in which they employed their time, instead of improving themselves in knowledge and the polite arts.

Many poets have endeavoured to appropriate her ingenious fiction of Love and Folly to themselves; but the invention, which is its principal merit, seems due only to *La Belle Cordiere*. La Fontaine most probably took the idea of his fable, entitled, *L'Amour et la Folie*, and Erasmus, *his Praise of Folly*, from this writer. The other pieces which compose this lady's collection, are some elegies and sonnets, which are held in high estimation by the French.

Mrs. Thicknesse.

LAIS, of Corinth, a famous Grecian Courtesan.

LALA

LALA CIZENA, *of Mysia, in Asia Minor, came and established herself at Rome, about 84 B. C.*

SHE became a vestal, and painted and carved in ivory the portraits of many Roman matrons, and, by the help of a looking-glass, her own resemblance. There was none in her time whose pencil was more delicate or expeditious. She excelled Sopylus and Dionysius, the most famous portrait painters of the age, and her works sold very dear. On account of her talents and virtue a statue was erected to her, which, in the beginning of this century, was to be seen in the Justinian Museum at Rome. She flourished about thirty-three years before Christ.

Abecedario Pittorico. F. C.

LAMBERT (ANNE THERESA), *only Daughter of Stephen de Marguenat, Lord of Courcelles; married, in 1666, Henry de Lambert, Marquis de Saint Bris, who became Lieutenant-General of the French Armies, and died 1686. Madame de Lambert died 1722 or 3, in the 96th Year of her Age.*

HER father died when she was but three years old, but Bauchamont, a poet and a man of taste, having married her mother, perceived her talents, and cultivated them by an excellent education, by which means she early imbibed the habit of thinking deeply. Being left a widow, with a son and daughter, she watched over them with equal care. Her house was a species of academy, where people regularly assembled, not to play, but to enjoy the pleasure of rational and refined conversation, and where people of talents were always received with pleasure. She herself wrote in a noble, pure, and

and elegant stile; and though her writings were first published without her knowledge, they have gained her a high rank in the list of moral and sentimental authors.

The first was a letter upon the dispute between Madame Dacier and M. de la Motte respecting Homer, and was occasioned by two letters the Jesuit P. Buffier addressed to Madame Lambert on that subject. They were all three afterwards published by the Abbé Bordelon in one volume, and called *Homere en Arbitrage*. 2, *A Letter from a Lady to her Son, on True Glory*. This, unknown to her, was published in *Memoires de Litterature et d'Histoire*, and a Second Letter to her Daughter was promised by the publisher; but this she would not permit to be printed, yet afterwards found it necessary to publish both, under the title of *Avis d'une Mere à son Fils & à sa Fille*, in 1729, in 12mo. 3, *Her New Reflections on Women*, were printed at Paris in 1727, and at London 1729. This work, called *Metaphysique d'Amour*, was translated by Lokman. 4, In 1748, a volume in 12mo. was published at Paris, containing many short works of hers, such as *Essays on Friendship, Old Age, on Women, on Taste, and Riches, &c.* *The Female Hermit*, in the same book, was not written by her. This has also been translated and published in English.

The works of this lady were reprinted in 1752 in two little volumes, and may be read with as much profit as pleasure. The morality, however, is that of the world and of honour, and not that of the gospel.

Madame de Lambert preserved her taste for the belles lettres amidst the anxieties of a long lawsuit during her widowhood, and the infirmities of her latter years, which she bore with a patience and courage that did her honour.

Mrs. Thicknesse.

LAM-

LAMBRUN (MARGARET), *a Scotch Woman in the service of Mary, Queen of Scots,*

As was also her husband, who dying of grief for the sad catastrophe of that princess, his wife took the resolution of revenging the death, both of one and the other, upon queen Elizabeth. With this view she put on man's apparel, and assuming the name of Anthony Sparke, went to court, carrying always about her a pair of pistols, one to kill the queen, and the other herself, in order to escape justice. One day as she was pushing through the crowd to come up to her majesty, who was walking in her garden, she chanced to drop one of her pistols; which being seen by the guards, she was seized, in order to be sent to prison; but the queen, not suspecting her to be one of her own sex, had a mind to examine her first.

Accordingly, demanding her name, country, and quality, Margaret, with an undaunted firmness, replied, "Madam, though I appear in this habit, I am a woman; my name is Margaret Lambrun; I was several years in the service of queen Mary, whom you have so unjustly put to death, and by her death you have also caused that of my husband. Now, as I had the greatest love and affection for both, I resolved, at the peril of my life, to revenge their deaths by killing you, who are the cause of both. I confess that I have suffered many struggles within my breast, and have made all possible efforts to divert my resolution from this design, but all in vain. I found myself necessitated to prove the certain truth of that maxim, that neither reason nor force can hinder a woman from vengeance, when she is impelled thereto by love." The queen heard this discourse, and said, "You are then persuaded that in
this

this action you have done your duty, and satisfied the demands which your love for your mistress and your spouse, indispensably required from you, what think you is now my duty towards you?" The woman replied with the same intrepidity, " I will tell your Majesty frankly my opinion, provided you will please to let me know whether you put this question in the quality of a queen or that of a judge?" To which her majesty answering in that of a queen, then said she, " you ought to grant me a pardon."—" But what assurance or security can you give me, that you will not make the like attempt upon some other occasion?" Margaret replied, " Madam, a favour which is given under such restraints is no more a favour, and in so doing your majesty would act against me as a judge." The queen, turning to some of her council then present, said, " I have been thirty years a queen, but do not remember ever to have had such a lecture read to me before;" and immediately granted her a full pardon, against the opinion of the president of her council, and at her request, a safe conduct out of the kingdom.

Female Worthies.

LAMIA, *an Athenian Courtesan, flourished about 300 B. C.*

SHE was a celebrated player on the flute, in which character she first appeared in the world. She was the mistress of Ptolemy, king of Egypt; and, being taken from him in a naval engagement by Demetrius Poliorcetes, became his, though she was much older than this prince, whose affections she secured by her luxury even more than by her wit. He furnished her with immoderate wealth, and then loved her for the enjoyments she knew how to procure with it.

F. C.
LANDI

LANDI (LEONORA), of a noble Castilian Family, was born at Goa, but carried early to Florence, where her Father was Major Domo to Cosmo.

SHE was married to Horace Landi, a noble Florentine; but being exceedingly devout, obtained his permission to retire from the world, which she did after some time, founding the orders of the Incarnation and the Trinity. She had weak health, and spent her time mostly in prayer and penitence, dying 1639.

Though she only knew how to read and write, she had a talent for poetry, and composed in stanzas of eight lines many Lives of saints, in three-lined verse; a large volume of Spiritual songs, &c. After her death, they were collected and transcribed. Crescimbeni, in his *Histoire de Poësie Vulgaire*, says, that they abound in theological and moral thoughts, and charitable sentiments.

F. C.

LAVAGGI (ANNE), a Nun of Palermo; died 1704, aged 73.

SHE had printed, during her life, many beautiful pieces of poetry; more were collected after her death; and a manuscript is still in being of hers, a *Prose Explication of the Apocalypse*.

F. C.

LEÆNA, Courtesan of Athens,

Took an active part in the conspiracy of Harmodius and Aristogiton against Hipparchus, son of Pisistratus.

H H

She

She was, on suspicion, arrested and put to the torture by Hippias, brother to the tyrant, but refused to betray her accomplices. Yet, alive to the severity of the torments she endured, she was fearful that her resolution would not hold out long, and in the despair of a generous mind, fearing to commit a base action, she bit through her tongue, and spat it in the face of her tormentor.

As soon as the Athenians recovered their liberty, they erected to her honour the statue of a lion without a tongue.

F. C.

LEAPOR (MARY), *Daughter of the Gardener of Judge Blencowe, at Marston, in Northamptonshire; born 1722.*

SHE exhibited an early taste for poetry, which was at first checked by her parents, till they perceived the strong bent of her inclination; and the praise and encouragement of friends, inclined them to let her proceed. She appears to have been of a melancholy turn of mind, probably from ill health, for she died young in 1746. Two volumes of poems, in which is an unfinished play, were published after her decease; in them she generally calls herself Myra.

See her Works.

LEBRIXA (FRANCES DE), *Daughter of the celebrated Antony Lebrixa,*

WAS a learned rhetorician; and when her father was ill, or otherwise engaged, used to give public lectures in his stead, in the university of Alcalá.

LEGGE,

LEGGE (ELIZABETH), *eldest Daughter of Edward Legge, Esq. Ancestor to the Earl of Dartmouth; born 1580.*

She was well versed in Latin, English, French, Spanish, and Irish. Whether she published or translated any thing is not known; but she was blind many years before her death, which it was thought was occasioned by her reading and writing too much by candle-light. She was esteemed a good poet. She spent the greatest part of her life in Ireland, and died unmarried at the age of 105, her family being remarkable for longevity.

Female Worthies.

LEILA, of Granada,

OF an ancient and noble family, illustrious for her learning and knowledge, during the time the Moors had possession of Spain.

Bibliothecæ Arabico-Hispanæ Escorialiensis.

L'ENCLOS (ANNE DE), *called Ninon De L'enclos; died 1705, aged 90 and 5 months.*

HER father was a gentleman of Touraine. He made her early acquainted with the best authors, and taught her himself to play upon the lute, which she did to perfection. Being a man of pleasure, he inspired her with the same taste, yet did not omit giving her lessons of probity and honour. Her mother was a religious woman, and used to take her to church; but she always contrived to carry some amusing book with her, which she read during service. This extraordinary woman

appears to have been inimitable for the charms of her person and manners. Her mind was highly polished; yet with powers of reasoning to make her respected by the sage; she knew how to blend refinement with gaiety, candour and sensibility with acknowledged looseness of principle and life. During a long life, she was the admiration of the world around her, and amidst all the changes of fashion and time maintained her influence. The distinguished, whether for birth or talents, sought her society for the gratification it afforded them; the young and aspiring, in hopes of being thereby polished and instructed.

Voltaire says, that her father was a player upon the lute, and that cardinal Richelieu was her first admirer, and settled on her a pension of 2000 livres, no small sum at that time. Others say, it was the young Coligny, duke de Chatillon, who was a Calvinist, and with whom Ninon would argue for hours to detach him from that faith, which most likely she thought prejudicial to his interest. He abjured Calvinism accordingly in 1694. They had at first sworn eternal fidelity; but finding the sentiment die in her heart, Ninon for the future determined that in friendship only it was necessary to be faithful.

As she was not rich, she permitted her guests to bring with them their separate dishes to her suppers, which were frequented by the first wits of the age. This was not an unusual custom in France. Amongst the wits who obtained this privilege was St. Evremond, who wrote a verse under her picture, signifying, that wise and indulgent nature had formed her heart with the principles of Epicurus, and the virtue of Cato.

She was called the modern Leontium, from her philosophical knowledge, which received additional charms
from

from her wit. At the age of twenty-two, she had a fit of illness, which was believed mortal; and when her friends lamented that she should be thus snatched away in the prime of life, she exclaimed—"Ah! I leave only dying people in the world!" A gentleman who was deeply enamoured of her, not being able to inspire any return, in his indignation wrote some lines, in which he said, he without trouble renounced his love, which had lent her charms she did not in reality possess. Ninon immediately wrote an answer in the same measure, saying, that if love lent charms, why did he not borrow some?

With her friend, Marion de Lormes, Ninon thus led a licentious life; but the death of her mother, who was a virtuous and pious woman, with her entreaties and advice, seemed to change her heart all at once. She fled to a convent, to expiate her errors by penitence; but the good impression she had imbibed vanished with her grief, and she came back to the world, which received her with new admiration.

After the death of Richelieu and Louis XIII. the first years of the regency were marked by every species of dissipation; according to the description of St. Evremond, the friend of Ninon, "error was no longer called evil, and vice was named pleasure." Yet the queen at one time had an intention of shutting her up in a convent, but her numerous friends prevented it; and the troubles which soon arose in Paris, induced her to leave it with the Marquis de Villarceaux, with whom she retired to a seat distant from Paris, and remained three years, to the astonishment of every body. At the end of the civil war they returned, and Ninon found her father dying,

who tried to strengthen those principles he had first instilled into her mind, saying he only regretted that he had enjoyed so few pleasures in proportion to what he might have had. He advised her, on the contrary, not to be scrupulous in the number, but the choice of them. The security in which he appeared to die, was a consolation to his daughter, and she arranged her little patrimony with great prudence, sinking the principal, so that she had 7 or 8000 livres annually. One motive for doing this was, the resolution she had made never to marry.

The poet Scarron was in the number of her friends, and because his infirmities kept him at home, and poverty made people slight him, she would often stay at his house several days together, by which means it was filled with the polite and the learned. She now found him married to Mademoiselle D'Aubigné, with whom she commenced an intimate friendship, although the latter robbed her of the heart of de Villars-ceaux.

One of her lovers having left Paris, confided to Ninon 10,000 crowns, and the like sum to a penitentiary, famous for the austerity of his manners. On his return to reclaim it, the latter affected not to understand him, saying they received money only as gifts for the poor. When the young man came to Ninon, she cried out, "I have had a misfortune in your absence." He supposed she was going to announce to him the loss of the money, but she continued, "I am sorry for you, if you still love me, for I no longer love you; but there is the money you confided to me." They then vowed an eternal friendship. Once when a gentleman was recounting his own good qualities, to court her

her favour, she answered, "Heavens! how many virtues you make hateful to me."

Moliere was introduced to the acquaintance of Ninon, by Chapelle. He discovered in her, as he said, the essence of all talents, and the knowledge of all ages, and regarded her taste for ridicule as the most perfect he had ever met with. But, amidst the adoration of lovers and the praise of wits, Ninon was not every where triumphant. Wishing to draw all that were distinguished or great into her toils, she wanted to captivate a celebrated preacher, and pretending to be ill, sent for him as if for spiritual consolation; but, on his arrival, he found her attired with elegance, and surrounded by luxury. She practised all her graces; but to the truly good man they appeared contemptible, and to her confusion, he said: "I see that your malady is in your heart and mind, in person you appear in perfect health; I beseech the Great Physician of souls to cure you!" and left her covered with shame and confusion.

When she was past sixty, a more serious evil befel her. A son of hers had been educated under the name of the chevalier de Villiers, without being made acquainted with his birth. To finish his education, his father introduced him into her society, to learn those inimitable graces, and that charm which she alone possessed. The unhappy young man became her admirer; and, when she was thus forced to reveal to him who he was, he rushed from her, into the garden, and either struck with horror at himself, or mortified at the discovery of his dishonourable birth, fell upon his sword. Ninon saw him expiring, and would have destroyed herself, had she
not

not been prevented. She had another son, who died 1723, at Rochelle, where he was commissary of Marines.

After this accident, she began to change her manner of life. She laid aside the familiar name of Ninon, and purchased a new house in the Rue des Tournelles, near the Place Royal, where her company was sought by the most respectable and brilliant of her own sex, as well as the other, amongst whom was Madame de Sévigné, La Fayette, and de Sabliere, &c. who preferred her company to the most brilliant societies. Amongst the men were Rochefoucault and St. Evremond, who said of her, that "nature had begun to shew it was possible not to grow old." Though at the common age of decrepitude, she had none of its ugliness—she had still all her teeth, and almost all the fire of her eyes; so that in her last years you might read her history in them.

She always remained the same, an Epicurean by principle, though she preserved more correct outward manners, and frequented the church. Madame de Maintenon, in her elevation, did not forget her old friend, and offered her, if she would become seriously devout, apartments at Versailles; but Ninon was satisfied with her present fortune, and said it was too late in life for her to learn to dissemble. Yet, to gratify the king, who wished to see her, she went one day to the royal chapel.

Some of her letters are in St. Evremond's collection; but others were published, which were not genuine.

She predicted the future fame of Voltaire, and left him a little legacy to buy books.

The abbé de Chateauneuf made an epitaph upon her, of which this is a translation:

There

There is nothing which death does not conquer.
 Ninon, who more than an age has served love,
 Now submits to his power ;
 She was the honour and the shame of her sex.
 Inconstant in her desires,
 Refined in her pleasures,
 A faithful and wise friend,
 A tender, but capricious lover ;
 Delicacy and gallantry both reigned in her heart, and
 showed the power of a combination of the charms
 of Venus, and the sense of an angel.

F. C. &c.

LEONTIUM, *an Athenian Courtesan, a Disciple of
 the Epicurean Philosophy,*

WHICH she defended against Theophrastus, chief of the sect of the Peripatetics, and the most eloquent philosopher of his time. Her writings had success, and were particularly admired for the correctness and elegance of the stile.

She was celebrated by the poet Harmesianax, of Colophon, in his Elegies, and was a very learned and accomplished woman. She had a son by Metrodorus, one of her own sect, and a daughter Danaë, who was likewise a courtesan.

F. C.

LIANCOUR (JANE, DUCHESS DE), *Daughter
 of Henry Schomberg, Duke, Peer, and Mareschal of
 France, Grand Master of the Artillery, Superintendant
 of the Finances, &c.*

His daughter, who showed from her infancy the happiest disposition, was early accustomed to business. Her father acquainted her with his most important affairs,

fairs, often made her read to him negotiations and treaties; dictated dispatches to her, and sometimes desired her to make them, as an exercise.

She thus became accustomed to great affairs, and had a taste even for the most abstract sciences, which her extreme facility made a pleasure to teach her. She possessed also great facility in learning languages, and a talent for painting and poetry, which last she exerted only upon religious subjects.

At the age of twenty she married the duke de Liancour, who was only twenty-two. He was a dissipated young man; but sincerely loved and esteemed his wife, who made no other use of her power over him than to fix in his mind the principles of religion, which he held too lightly. They lived together fifty-four years, and the duke's levity during the first eighteen never made the least alteration in their affection for each other. She mourned in secret for his ill conduct; but her kindness never abated, and her patience, her good counsel, and her prayers, were at length heard, and a ray of wisdom beamed on the heart of her husband. Twice had he been attacked by infectious diseases, during which she assiduously attended him, not only ministering to his complaints, but exhorting and instructing upon the vanity and nothingness of this life, and the wisdom of living for eternity.

To draw him from the societies which perverted his principles, she beautified his country seat, so that it surpassed every thing then in France. She designed the gardens and buildings, and presided over them herself. She invited to it men of literature and agreeable talents, and by little and little enticed him from a court, where he had not strength of mind to live virtuously.

They

They had but one son, who fell in battle, leaving an only daughter, over whose education Madame de Liancour watched with much solicitude. This young lady was sought in marriage for a nephew of cardinal Mazarine's; but she had been already promised to another, and her grandmother was resolute to refuse an offer which would again lead them into the great world. It was suggested to her, that in that sphere they might be of great use by the influence of example; but she answered, it was not for them to play the saint, but the penitent.

But in 1656, she lost her grand-daughter, and about the same time her brother, with whose widow she was obliged to have a law suit, of which she did not live to see the end; yet she contested with her as a friend, and always looked over the writings of her counsel, that nothing personally bitter or unpleasant might be introduced. Another time, a poor gentleman, who had a law suit against her, not having the means to be at Paris to carry it on, she gave him money for that purpose.

She suffered much indisposition, pain, and trouble, during the last years of her life, but she bore all with constancy and patience. She wished to be buried at Liancour, and went there fifteen days before her death on that account. She died 1674, and the duke survived her but six weeks.

They found amongst her papers, beside the writings mentioned above, *Advice to her Grand-daughter*, which is highly extolled for the piety and wisdom it discovers. This was printed at Paris, under the title of, *Règlement donné par une Dame de Haute Qualité à Mad. —, sa Petite-Fille, pour sa Conduite, et pour celle de sa Maison*. The editor Boileau, canon of St. Honoré, at Paris, who

who was acquainted with Madame de Liancour, has added her life to it, and some rules for her own conduct, written by herself.

We will finish this article by a trait of her generosity. A servant who had robbed her, and afterwards in anger at being dismissed, had attempted to set fire to the house, being fallen into sickness and poverty, she sent him every assistance necessary without his knowing the hand it came from, till she considered that perhaps this knowledge might abate the hate he had conceived against her, and make him repent his fault.

F. C.

LINCOLN (ELIZABETH, COUNTESS OF), *one of the Daughters and Coheiresses of Sir John Knevets, of Charlton, in Wiltshire, Knt.*

WAS married to Thomas, earl of Lincoln, about the latter end of the reign of queen Elizabeth, by whom she had seven sons and nine daughters: she survived him many years, and in the year 1628 published a small but valuable tract, entitled, *The Countess of Lincolne's Nursery*. It is addressed to her daughter-in-law, Bridget, countess of Lincoln, and is an excellent proof of her good sense, being, as a judicious writer observes, a well written piece, full of fine arguments, and capable of convincing any one, that is capable of conviction, of the necessity and advantages of mothers nursing their own children. By her ladyship's speaking of it as the first work of hers ever printed, one would imagine she had written more, but nothing of this kind has come to our knowledge.

Female Worthies.

LIVIA DRUSILLA, *surnamed also Julia, Wife, first, of Tiberius Claudius Nero, by whom she was Mother of the Emperor Tiberius; afterwards, of Augustus. Died in the Year 29, aged 86.*

THE father of Livia was L. D. Calidianus, originally of the family of the Claudii, but adopted into that of the Livii. After the battle of Philippi he destroyed himself, to avoid falling into the hands of the triumvirs, to whose party he was adverse.

The husband of Livia was afterward of the side of Antony against Augustus, and with his wife and son, in the midst of a civil war, fled from Rome to join him in Sicily, where they ran a thousand dangers. On the marriage of Antony to Octavia; and their consequent reconciliation, Tiberius and his family returned to Rome, where the superior beauty and qualifications of Livia captivated the heart of Augustus; and not long after, though she was pregnant, and he already married, she became his wife; for Tiberius dared not deny Cæsar any thing, and the latter divorced Scribonia on the day in which she became the mother of Julia. Livia was proclaimed Augusta, and mother of her country. The Romans even pursued their flattery so far as to erect temples in her honour, and Augustus saw them with pleasure exalt to a divinity a woman whom he loved, who, always equal in her temper, shut her eyes on his irregular conduct, and as much as she could, consistent with that dignity she was tenaciously preserving, mixed in the pleasures he had provided for others. By this conduct she not only secured the affection, but ruled the mind of her husband. Despairing to have children by her, he adopted those she had had by Tiberius; and she

she so loaded them with honours, that the sceptre could not but pass, on the death of Augustus, into the hands of one of them.

“ Livia,” says M. de Serviez, “ had an enlarged and cultivated mind, capable of all the refinements of policy. A quiet understanding, just discernment, delicate and enlightened taste, and a profound penetration, which, in the most difficult situations, always pointed out the best way to pursue; so that Augustus had never any serious conversation with her which he did not insert in his journal. Yet she was lofty, proud, ambitious, and though without the severe virtue of the ancient Roman ladies, kept up the decorum of their manner, softened by the most finished politeness and address.

The unexpected death of Marcellus, the nephew, and Caius and Lucius, the grandsons of Augustus, whose deaths Livia is supposed to have caused by poison, and the exile of Agrippa, their younger brother, did not diminish her favour or her power. Augustus even kept secret from her a voyage which he made to see the latter in his banishment.

But this interview, which was tender and affecting, neither of them long survived. The death of Augustus, as it was supposed, was hastened by Livia, and the other put to death, as she affirmed, by his order.

Some one demanded of Livia the means she made use of to govern so completely the mind of the emperor: “ By obeying him blindly,” said she, “ by not attempting to discover his secrets, and by feigning ignorance of his intrigues.” Thus it was the governor or the lord of the world was deluded. He knew not that affection, if it cannot correct, mourns over the vices of those it loves, and that none can see with calmness the misconduct of another, but those who feel for them a portion of contempt.

Her

Her son, however, did not reward her ingratitude, for no sooner was he seated upon the throne, than he strove to confine her power in more limited bounds. By a feigned humility, he refused to suffer the decrees of the senate in her honour to pass, either during her life or afterwards; and yet, fearful to embroil himself with this able princess, he fixed his residence at Caprea.

After the death of Augustus, Livia bore the name of Julia, because he had adopted her into that family, and instituted her heiress of a third part of his possessions.

Caius Caligula pronounced her funeral eulogium.

F. C.

LOCUSTA,

A CELEBRATED poisoner in the time of Nero, who could make her potions of such different qualities, that they would give a sudden or a slower death at pleasure. Nero found her so useful, that he kept her always near him. Yet, on the poison she gave Britannicus not being potent enough, was going to put her to death, and beat her with his own hands. He made her prepare her poisons in his palace, and for recompence not only granted her impunity for those crimes she committed without his order, but gave her large possessions, and pupils to learn her art.

F. C.

LOGES (MARY BRUNEAU DES) *a French Lady,*

ONE of the most illustrious women of the seventeenth century. In the year 1599, married Charles,
Lord

Lord des Loges, gentleman in ordinary of the king's bedchamber, by whom she had nine children, of whom only five survived her. She died 1641, in Limousin. Her zeal for the reformed religion, which she constantly professed all her lifetime, her piety and exalted mind, shone with a fresh eclat towards the latter end of her life, when she suffered, as she had already done on other occasions, several domestic vexations, which she bore with true christian patience and constancy. Her piety diminished not the singular gaiety of her mind, yet it was sincere and fervent. Her grand-nieces, Luzerne, who retired into Holland to profess more freely the reformed religion, were highly esteemed for their piety and other great qualities, of whom Madame de Aulnoy need only be mentioned.

Balzac celebrates her in his Latin poems, under the name of Urania. He speaks of her in many parts of his other works as the person in the world he esteemed the most, and as his most sincere and estimable friend; and mentions her reproving him severely for the too indiscriminate praise he distributed in his writings. Unintentionally he has attributed some pieces of poetry to her, not of her own writing. In effect, it is not at present well known what she did write, as nothing of hers was published collectively, though she was called the tenth muse by her contemporaries.

Malherbe, who was tenacious of bestowing his esteem, was a particular friend of Mad. des Loges, as was Racan, Gombaud, and almost all the beaux-esprits of that age. Foreigners of the highest distinction sought her acquaintance when they came to Paris, and she corresponded with some crowned heads.

F. C. &c.

LOMBARDA (DAUNA), *called also Nalombarda, a Lady of Toulouse, beautiful, amiable, and learned: had great invention and poetical genius.*

BERNARD ARNOULD, brother of the count d'Armagnac, having heard of her character and talents, came to Toulouse purposely to see her. He admired her extremely, and always remained her firm friend.

Some of her works are in the Vatican Library.

F. C.

LONGUEVILLE (ANNE GENEVIEVE DEBOURBON, DUCHESSE DE), *Daughter of Henry II. de Bourbon Condé, first Prince of the Blood. Born 1619, at the castle of Vincennes, where her Father was then Prisoner. Died 1679, aged 59.*

CONCEIVED early an inclination for a conventual life; her father opposing it, she remained in the world, but from thence had a disdainful and cold air in society, which, however, was not proof against a public ball, and the admiration her beauty excited. The world which she pleased began to please her, and her talents, her graces, began to appear, particularly at the Hotel de Rambouillet, where all that was refined and distinguished, in Paris, met. In her 23d year, she became the second wife of the Duke de Longueville, aged 47, but was not very happy with him. The same year she had the small pox, but without injury to her beauty.

Godeau, who frequently wrote to her, on congratulating her upon this event, said, that he had such an

opinion of her good sense, that he believed, had it left marks, she would have been easily consoled. “ They are often,” added he, “ proofs of divine mercy.”

The great Condé, her brother, then duc d’Enguien, was strictly attached to her ; but some interruption to their friendship happened in consequence of her thinking it her duty to inform her father of an attachment he had conceived for a friend of hers, on which the young lady retired into a convent. The brother and sister were, however, soon reconciled, as appeared from the eagerness with which he undertook her defence against Madame de Montbazon. This lady, jealous of the princess, pretended that the count Maurice de Coligny, who was her relation, frequently visited as her lover. She fabricated letters to prove it, and dispersed them ; but the queen obliged her to go to the Hotel de Condé, and pronounce a formal retractation of what she had said and written. Yet, as the duke of Guise, who was the lover of Madame de Montbazon, still continued to spread the calumny, the count de Coligny called him out in a duel, which was fatal to the injured person. As to the duke de Longueville, he took no interest in the matter ; indeed, he had once loved Madame de Montbazon, and perhaps still loved her.

In 1644, he went envoy to Munster, and left his wife at Paris ; but two years afterwards, her brother engaged him to send for her, to take her out of the way of the prince de Marsillac, afterwards the famous Rochefoucault, whose passion for her was well known. This affair made a second breach between Condé and his sister ; but Madame de Longueville was in some measure consoled by the great honours paid her in a foreign country,

country, yet she grew tired of the place, and returned to Paris, where she was brought to bed of a daughter, who lived only four years.

The troubles of the minority of Louis XIV. opened a grand career to her ambition. Her natural indolence would have made political discussions unpleasant to her, had they not been developed by the prince de Marsillac, who, as well as herself, was irritated against her brother, and opposed to him the prince de Conti. Thus she found herself between the court and the faction, the mediator between them, and equally looked up to by Condé, Mazarin, and the Coadjutor.

Yet they mistrusted Madame de Longueville at Paris, and her brother at St. Germain's. They feared their enmity was only feigned, and they could only persuade them they were not of intelligence the one with the other, by widening the breach; yet a sincere reconciliation soon took place on the cessation of the troubles, but the good understanding between them was one principal cause of renewing them, as Madame de Longueville continually spirited up her brother against the court.

She could not dispense with going to St. Germain's, but she would not go as a suppliant. She sent word the day and hour on which she would go, but was expected some time before she appeared. When she came, the court was very full, and the queen in bed. Every one was anxious to hear what a woman of so fine an understanding would say upon the occasion; but trembling as if she had the fever, she only pronounced distinctly the word *Madame*; and the rest of her speech was so low, that with the utmost attention the queen could not hear her; and this meeting, cold on both sides, only served to augment the queen's resentment.

After the imprisonment of the princes on the 18th of January, 1649, Madame de Longueville went to Stenay to be near M. de Turenne. It is said, this illustrious warrior, not content with directing her political enterprises, was deeply in love with this princess; and though she rejected his vows, it is certain he always remained her firm friend. During all these agitations, her little girl died, and she sent a letter to the Carmelite nuns, written in a very pious strain, on that occasion; and perhaps the moment after, says her historian, wrote another to the king of Spain, to demand troops against the king.

After the enlargement of the princes, Madame de Longueville found herself in the most brilliant situation, and the object of public admiration. Yet the prince de Condé soon renewed the civil war, though he took some time to determine upon it, and severely reprehended his sister and the duke de la Rochefoucault for engaging him in an enterprize of which they would first be weary, and abandon him when he had no other resource.

Indeed, Madame de Longueville began to have many subjects of disgust with life. The king's party prevailed, and her brother, though still attached to her, began to follow her counsels less. The duke de la Rochefoucault, offended at the manner in which she had received the addresses of the duke de Nemours, had left her, as did the latter soon after; though, on his being killed by the duke of Beaufort, she bitterly regretted him.

Having had permission to go to Moulins, she passed ten months there at a monastery, with her relation the duchess de Montmorenci, who was abbess; and from that time, though only thirty-four years of age, she had no more bold projects, no more sighs for glory, no more

taste.

taste for dominion; and the same princess, who had presided in Paris in the midst of a numerous court, composed of the most illustrious people in France, confined herself to one province, engaged in domestic duties, and abandoned to the rigours of penitence.

The sincerity of her conversion was at first doubted, and was spoken of with scorn; but her perseverance soon converted it into public esteem, and gained her the royal countenance. She was devout and benevolent, without those littlenesses which often disfigure piety; and the following trait of adherence to truth cannot be uninteresting.

Not having been able to obtain a favour for one of her people of the king, she was so much hurt, that very *indiscreet words*, to say no more, escaped her; which were reported by a gentleman present to the king, and from him to her brother, who assured him it could not be, and that his sister had not lost her senses. "I will believe her, if she herself denies it," said the king. The prince went to her, and she concealed nothing from him. In vain he tried, during a whole afternoon, to persuade her, that in this instance sincerity would be folly. That in justifying her to the king, he believed he had spoken truth, and that it would be even more grateful to his majesty for her to deny than own her fault. "Do you wish me to repair it," said she, "by a greater, not only towards God, but towards the king? I cannot lie to him, when he has the generosity to put faith in me, and believe me on my word. The man who has betrayed me is much to blame; but after all, I must not let him pass for a slanderer, which he is not."

She went the next day to court, and having obtained a private audience of the king, threw herself at his

feet, and begged pardon for the indiscreet words which had escaped her, which her brother had not believed her capable of, but that she had rather avow her fault, than be justified at the expence of others. The king pardoned her immediately, and ever after treated her with more particular kindness than before.

F. C. &c.

LONGVIC, (JACQUELINE DE), *Duchess of Montpensier*,

A lady of great merit, in the sixteenth century. She had great influence over Francis I. Henry II. and Catherine de Medicis, and made the tranquillity of the publick her care and study; and it is believed, had she not been snatched away so soon, she would have prevented the commotions that afterwards broke out. She was the youngest daughter of John de Longvic, lord de Givri; and married Lewis de Bourbon, duke of Montpensier. She died, August 28, 1561, a little before the troubles on account of religion broke out. Manifestly discovering, during her long consumptive illness, what her husband had long suspected, that she was a protestant; and doubtless it was by her private instructions, that some of her daughters were so firmly attached to the reformation, for Frances de Bourbon, her eldest, married, in 1558, to the duke of Bouillon, openly professed the protestant religion, and could not be prevailed upon to quit it, notwithstanding the incredible pains her father took for that purpose. Charlotte, her fourth daughter, had been sent to a nunnery, contrary to her inclination. She was abbess of Jöüare; but as this kind of life did not suit, either the principles she had imbibed,

bibed, or perhaps her own inclination, she fled to Germany in 1572, abjured the Roman religion there, and married the prince of Orange. Two other daughters persevered in the monastic life, to which they were devoted, and one married the son of the duke de Nevers.

Female Worthies.

LOUISA of SAVOY, *Countess of Angoulesme, Mother of Francis the First,*

WHO succeeded to the throne of France A. D. 1515, on the demise of Louis XII. his great uncle, and with whom expired the elder branch of the house of Orleans. Immediately on his accession, he raised Angoulesme into a duchy, from motives of filial affection. Louisa had been in person eminently beautiful, and even then the hand of time had scarcely been able to diminish the splendour of her charms, while the gifts of nature had been carefully improved and embellished by the acquisitions of art. Born with strong talents, and a mind active, vigorous, penetrating, and decisive, she aimed at the acquisition of power, and braved unappalled the most furious storms of adversity. But, unhappily for the nation, her virtues were greatly overbalanced by her vices; her passions were strong and impetuous, and to their gratification she sacrificed all that a woman should hold dear in life: vain, avaricious, intriguing, and jealous, implacable in her resentments, impatient of controul, and insatiate in her avarice, she thwarted the best concerted projects of her son, and occasioned the greatest distress to the nation. When Francis on his Italian expedition left his mother regent of the kingdom, and after his return from it, when his duchy of Milan was threatened to be invaded by the pope, and

Lau-

Lautrec was appointed its governor, Louisa, partly through avarice, and partly from the inveterate dislike she had conceived to Lautrec, who had been rather too free in his remarks on the numerous adventures to which her disposition had given rise, seized the three hundred thousand crowns, which had been raised for the pay of the Milanese troops, and appropriated them to her own use. Lautrec performed prodigies of valour, but the Swiss mercenaries, who formed the greater part of his army, enraged at not receiving their pay, left him and retired to their own country, and Lautrec was obliged to return to France. The king was so enraged at the loss of the Milanese, that at first he refused to see him, but having at length obtained an audience, he justified himself by imputing the disasters of the campaign to the want of the promised money. Francis, who was ignorant of his mother's conduct, flew into a violent passion with Semblancy, superintendent of the finances, peremptorily insisting on knowing what was become of the money, which he had ordered to be sent to Italy? the minister, a man of integrity and virtue, who had grown grey in the service of his country, confessed he had been obliged to pay it to the Duchess of Angoulesme, who had taken the consequences upon herself; but that infamous woman, sacrificing every principle of honour to avarice and revenge, had the presumption to deny the fact, and though Semblancy, in his own defence, produced her receipt, she still persisted in the denial, maintaining that receipt was given for another sum of the same amount. Though Semblancy was justified in the eyes of his sovereign, and continued to enjoy his place a little longer, yet the vindictive Louisa soon suborned one of the clerks to accuse him of peculation, he was committed to the Bastile,

tile, tried by partial judges, and at length expired on a gibbet. Her affections had long been fixed on the Duke of Bourbon, but finding her love rejected by a prince sincerely attached to his wife, her love was converted into hatred, and she prejudiced the king against him. But the death of the duchess of Bourbon revived her former tenderness, she sacrificed her resentment to love, and offered her hand to the disconsolate duke. This offer being rejected with contempt, the insult was deemed irreparable; the resentment of slighted love and wounded vanity raged with increased violence, and Bourbon was doomed to destruction by this implacable princess. A law suit was commenced against him, to recover some possessions he held in right of his deceased wife, and the criminal judges, overawed by Louisa's authority, pronounced a sentence, by which his estates were sequestered. Bourbon, inflamed by a repetition of injuries, and driven to desperation, entered into a treaty with Henry VIII. of England, and Charles V. of Germany, against the King of France.

At first, Francis was successful in repelling the confederated Princes, which encouraged him to attempt in person the recovery of the Milanese; in vain did his mother and his wisest ministers dissuade him from it, he was determined, and leaving the Duchess regent of the kingdom departed. After the fatal battle of Pavia, at which, after the most valorous exertions, he lost both his army and liberty, he addressed Louisa in this laconic, but expressive note, "Madame, all is lost, except our honour." The kingdom was now reduced to a situation pregnant with dangers; the captivity of the king, the loss of a flourishing army, added to a discontent prevailing through the kingdom, seemed to threaten a general insurrection. The people murmured,
the

the parliament complained. In this trying emergency the magnanimity of Louisa was eminently displayed, and that kingdom which her passions had endangered, her abilities were exerted to save; she assembled at Lyons, the princes of the blood, the governors of the provinces, and notables of the realm, who came to the generous resolution of immediately paying the ransom of the officers and soldiers taken at the battle of Pavia. The army and garrisons were recruited, and enabled to repel an attack of the Imperialists, whilst Louisa conciliated the favour of the king of England, whom she disengaged from the confederacy; and to her mediation Francis acknowledged himself indebted for his liberty, which he recovered in March 1526, and was joyfully received by his mother and the whole nation. The terms of his liberation by the emperor were so exorbitant, that he never intended to fulfil them, and the Pope absolved him from his oaths. Hostilities continued, till at length, Margaret of Austria and the Duchess of Angoulême met at Cambray, and settled the terms of pacification, whence the peace derived the name of “The ladies’ peace.” Louisa died 1571, delivering Francis from a counsellor whose passions had frequently endangered the kingdom which her wisdom and magnanimity had contributed to protect. Mindful of her counsel, he completed her favorite project, of annexing the duchy of Brittany to the crown.

Gifford’s France.

LOUISA (MARGARET of LORRAIN), *Daughter of Henry Duke of Guise, married in 1605, by Henry IV, who was in love with her and wished to fix her at court, to Francis de Bourbon, Prince of Conti.*

They however secretly left it immediately after their marriage;

marriage; but the prince dying in 1614, Louisa devoted herself entirely to the belles lettres, patronized the learned, and employed her time in studying their works and writing books. She was one of cardinal Richelieu's enemies, and he banished her to Eu, where she died 1531. She wrote the amours of Henry IV, under the title of *Les Amours du Gr. Alexandre*. The best edition is that in the journal of Henry V, 1744. 5 vols. octavo. She was suspected of having married the maréchal de Bassompierre for her second husband.

L'Advocat's Dict.

LOUVENCOURT (MADEMOISELLE DE), *Friend of Mademoiselle de Scudery; born at Paris 1680, died 1712;*

HAD very respectable poetical talents, was beautiful, and possessed a fine voice, sung with much taste, and had great skill in music, playing on the theorbo-lute. She composed many cantatas, which were greatly admired. M. de Genlis says, there were none in the French language equal to those of Mademoiselle de Louvencourt. She was, above all, esteemed for her modesty and eloquence in conversation.

F. C. &c.

LOYNE (ANTOINETTE DE), *a learned Parisian Lady, Wife of John Morel, a Gentleman of Provence.*

THERE are many elegant little poems of hers printed in *Le Tombeau de la Reine de Navarre*.

F. C.

LUBERT,

LUBERT (MADEMOISELLE),

AMONG other works, is well known by the following, which are her best: 1, *La Tyrannie des Fées Detruites, ou l'Origine de la Machine de Marli*, 12mo.; 2, *Le Revenant*, 12mo.; 3, *La Princesse Lionette et le Prince Coquerio*, 12mo. 1743; 4, *La Princesse Coque d'Œuf et le Prince Bonbon*, 12mo. 1745; 5, *Blancherose, conte*, 12mo. 1751; 6, *Amadis des Gaules (réduits à)*, 4 vols. 12mo.; 7, *Les Hauts Faits d'Esplandian (réduits à)*, 2 vols. 12mo.; 8, *Leonille, nouvelle*, 12mo. 2 vols. 1755.

Letters on the French Nation.

LUCAR, (ELIZABETH), *Daughter of Mr. Paul Withypoll, born in London, 1510.*

HER father gave her a polite and liberal education, which being improved by an excellent genius, she became exquisitely skilled in all kinds of needlework, was a curious calligrapher, or fine writer; a great proficient in arithmetic; played skilfully on several sorts of music; and was a complete mistress of the Latin, Italian, and Spanish tongues. She was a virtuous and religious woman, and died 1537, aged 27.

LUCCHESINI (LAURA GUIDICCIONI), *lived at Sienna in 1601, and was of the same Family as John Guidiccioni, one of the first Italian Poets of the 16th Century.*

DISTINGUISHED herself by her poetical talents, which she

she chiefly exerted in lyrical pieces. She excelled in versification, and from the variety of her knowledge deserves to be classed with people of learning. She composed also three pastorals to be set to music.

F. C.

LUCRETIA.

WHEN the Romans were at war with the Rutuli, and before the capital, Ardea, the siege of which went on very slowly, the general officers had a good deal of leisure for diversions, and they mutually made entertainments for one another in their quarters. One day, when Sextus Tarquinius was feasting his brothers, their kinsman Collatinus being of the company, the conversation happened to turn upon the merit of their wives. Every one extolled the good qualities of his own; but Collatinus affirmed, that his Lucretia excelled all others. It was a kind of quarrel; and, in order to end it, they took the method that mirth and wine inspired, which was, to mount their horses and surprize their wives; and it was agreed, that she whom they found employed in the manner most becoming the sex, should have the preference. Away therefore they galloped first to Rome, where they surprized the king's daughters-in-law all together in the midst of gaiety and diversions, who seemed much disconcerted by the unexpected return of their husbands. From Rome they hastened away to Collatia, the place where Collatinus resided in time of peace. Though the night was far advanced when the princes arrived there, they found Lucretia up, with her maids about her, spinning and working in wool. The company her husband brought of a sudden did not discompose her, and they were all pleased

pleased with the reception she gave them. Sextus, the eldest son of the reigning prince, Tarquinius Superbus, and the impious Tullia, was so captivated with her beauty, and inflamed with passion, which her insuperable modesty made the more violent, that he became exceedingly unwilling to leave the place; but there was an absolute necessity for his appearing in the camp before Ardea. However, he found a pretence to return very soon to Collatia, and went to lodge at his kinsman's house. Lucretia entertained him with great civility and respect; and after supper he was conducted to his apartment, where he remained quiet great part of the night. But when he thought the family asleep, he arose, and drawing his sword, entered the room in which Lucretia lay, without being discovered by any of her domestics. On approaching her bed-side, he made her acquainted with his wishes, and the weapon with which he was armed; threatening, at the same time, to kill her, if she attempted to escape, or offered to alarm the family.

But he had recourse to entreaties and menaces in vain. Determined, however, to accomplish his purpose, he sternly desired her to take choice of two conditions, of death with dishonour, or life with happiness. "On the one hand," whispered he, "you shall become my wife, and with me enjoy all the power and honours which I possess or have in prospect, the kingdom of Rome and the sovereignty of Italy. But if you refuse, I will first kill you, and then stab one of your male slaves; and, laying your bodies together, declare that I caught you in his embrace, and slew you to revenge the injured honour of Collatinus." Subdued by the fear of shame, Lucretia, who had set death at defiance, submitted, and the infamous Sextus returned

next

next morning to the camp with the exulting air of a conqueror.

The feelings of a beautiful and virtuous lady thus dishonoured may easier be conceived than described. Lucretia, however, behaved with composure and dignity. Having dressed herself in black, she ordered her chariot, and drove from Collatia to Rome. On entering the house of her father Lucretius, she threw herself at his feet, and embracing his knees, remained for some time bathed in tears, without uttering a word. He raised her affectionately, and asked what misfortune had befallen her. “To you, O father! I flee for refuge, under a dreadful and irreparable injury. In her calamities forsake not your daughter, who has suffered worse than death.”

Struck with wonder and astonishment at what he heard and saw, her father desired her to say what injury she had sustained. “That,” said Lucretia, “you will know too soon for your peace. In the mean time, assemble your friends and relations, that they may learn from my lips the shameful and severe necessity to which I have been compelled to submit, and that they may concert with you the means of revenge.”

Lucretius accordingly invited to his house, by a hasty message, the most considerable of his kindred and connexions in Rome, both male and female. When they were assembled, Lucretia unfolded to them her melancholy tale, with all its cruel circumstances; then embracing her father, and recommending herself to him, to all present, and to the gods, the just avengers of guilt, she drew a dagger, which she had concealed beneath her robes, and plunging it into her breast, at one stroke pierced her heart. The women, distracted with grief, beat their bosoms, and filled the house with shrieks and lamen-

lamentations, while Lucretius embraced the bleeding body of his daughter, who expired in his arms.

This awful spectacle filled all the Romans who were present with so much horror, blended with compassion, that they unanimously exclaimed they would rather die ten thousand deaths in defence of their liberties, than suffer such abuses to be committed by the Tarquins. Among the persons of distinction thus affected, was included Publius Valerius, afterwards surnamed *Publicola*, a man of great prudence and patriotism. He was chosen to go to the camp before Ardea, in order to acquaint the husband of Lucretia with her fate; and endeavour, in conjunction with him, to engage the army to revolt.

But Valerius had hardly begun his journey, when he met Collatinus coming to Rome, yet ignorant of the misfortunes of his family: and with him came Lucius Junius, surnamed *Brutus*, or the *Fool*, from the air of stupidity which had hitherto marked his character. That stupid appearance, however, was only assumed, as a mask to conceal his superior talents from the jealous eye of Tarquin II. who had put to death his father and his eldest brother, as too powerful and high-minded men to submit to his tyrannical government.

Brutus, in the mean time, only waited for a proper opportunity of recovering the lost liberties of his country. And no sooner did he hear Valerius relate the unhappy story of Lucretia, than, asking protection of the gods, he hastened to the house of mourning; where, finding the father and husband of Lucretia sunk in the deepest sorrow, he told them they would afterwards have leisure to bewail her fate; they ought now to think of avenging it.

In consequence of this advice, a consultation was instantly

stantly held, at which Brutus explained the cause of the degrading character he had assumed, and prevailed upon Lucretius, Collatinus, Valerius, and their common friends, to join in a resolution of expelling Tarquin and his usurping family. On the dagger with which Lucretia destroyed herself, and in sight of her breathless corpse, they swore to expel the Tarquins with fire and sword. And this sacred band of patriots accomplished their purpose, and laid the foundation of the Roman glory, by restoring that liberty of which for many centuries afterwards the people were so justly proud.

Brutus, and Collatinus, the husband of Lucretia, were the first consuls, and were appointed in the year of Rome 244, 508 years before Christ.

Roman History.

LUMLEY (JOANNA), *eldest Daughter and Coheiress of Henry Fitz-Allen, Earl of Arundel, and first Wife of John, Lord Lumley, by whom she had three Sons, who died Infants.*

SHE translated from the original Greek into Latin that oration of Isocrates entitled *Archidamus*; the second and third orations of Isocrates to Nicocles, which she dedicated to her father; and likewise turned into Latin an oration of the same author in praise of peace, entitled *Evagoras*, dedicated likewise to her father. The manuscripts of these are in the Royal Library at Westminster, as also a translation of the *Iphigenia* of Euripides into English. The argument of the play begins with these words: "After that the captain of the Grecians."

No more of this learned lady's writings are known, nor when she died; but when her father wrote his will,

which is dated 1579, she was then dead, and lies buried in the church of Cheam, in Surry, on the south side of which is her tomb.

Female Worthies.

LUSSAN (MARGARET DE), *Daughter of a Coachman, and La Fleury, a Fortune-Teller; born 1682—, died 1758, aged 75, in consequence of Bathing after an Indigestion.*

SOME have said she was the natural daughter of prince Thomas of Savoy, because prince Eugene was kind to her. An education much above her birth enabled Margaret de Lussan to compose the various works which she has left us. M. Huet, to whom she accidentally became known, advised her to write romances, in which she succeeded tolerably well, with the help of De la Serre, sieur de Langlade, author of nine or ten operas, who was her intimate friend, after having been her lover. This gentleman inherited an income of 25,000 livres, which he consumed by gaming, and died 1756, aged 94. Mademoiselle de Lussan was more admired for her mental than her personal qualifications; for she squinted, and had a very brown skin, with a masculine voice and gait; but she was gay, lively, extremely humane, constant in her friendships, liable to anger, but never to hatred.

She published, under her own name, *The History of Charles VI. of Louis IX. and of the Revolution of Naples*; but they were written by M. Baudot de Juilly, to whom she gave half of what she gained by these works, and half a pension of two thousand livres, which she received from the Mercury. Her works are: 1, *Histoire de la Comtesse de Gondés*, 12mo. 2 vols. 1727 and 1752; 2, *Anecdotes de la Cour de Philippe Auguste*, 6 vols.

6 vols. 1733; 3, *Les Veillées de Thessalie*, 4 vols. 1741; 4, *Mémoires Secret, et Intrigues de la Cour de France sous Charles VII.* 1741; 5, *Anecdotes de la Cour de François I.* 3 vols. 1748; 6, *Marie d'Angleterre, Reine d'Ecosse*, 1749; 7, *Annales Galantes de la Cour de Henri II.* 2 vols. 1749; 8, *Mourat et Turquia, Histoire Africaine*, 1752; 9, *La Vie du brave Crillon*, 2 vols.

L'Advocat's Dictionary, &c.

M.

MACAULEY-GRAHAM (CATHERINE), *Daughter of John Sawbridge, Esq. of Ollantigh, in Kent; died at Binfield, in Berkshire, 1791.*

THIS lady, from intuitive fondness for learning, addicted herself very early in life to reading history, especially that of the Greeks and Romans, from which she imbibed the enthusiastic attachment to liberty so strongly displayed in her writings. In 1760, she married Dr. George Macauley, a physician in London, some of whose writings appear in the *Medical Observations*. By this gentleman she had one daughter, who was afterwards married to Captain Gregory, in the East-India service.

In 1778, she married secondly, Mr. William Graham. Her first literary production was the *History of England from James I. to George I.* in 8 vols. 4to. the first published in 1763, the last in 1783. This is a violent attack on the whole race of the Stuarts, and was very popular at the time it first came out; 2, *Remarks on Hobbes' Radiments of Government and Society*, 8 vols.; 3, *Loose*

Remarks on some of Mr. Hobbes's Positions, 4to. 1769; 4, *Thoughts on the Causes of the present Discontents*, 1770; 5, *A Modest Plea for the Property of Copy-Right*, 8vo. 1774; 6, *History of England, from the Revolution to the present Time, in Letters to her Friend Dr. Wilson*, 1 vol. 4to. 1778.—This was published at Bath; 7, *An Address to the People of England, Scotland, and Ireland, on the present important Crisis*, 8vo. 1775; 8, *A Treatise on the Immutability of Moral Truth*, 8vo. 1783; 9, *Letters on Education*, 8vo. 1790.

Mrs. Macauley was pleasing and delicate in her person, and a woman of great feeling and indisputable abilities, though the democratic spirit of her writings has made them fall into disrepute.

Gen. Biog. Dict.

MACRINA, *Sister of St. Basil and St. Gregory of Nyssa,*

WAS a woman of great piety and learning; who, after the death of her father, her brothers and sisters being settled, retired with her mother Emmelia to a convent which they founded on an estate of their own in Pontus, near the river Iris, and there died, 379. St. Gregory of Nyssa has written her life.

C F.

MAGDALEN (MARY).

It was an opinion of the Jewish Rabbis, that the world was governed by ministering spirits. Good actions or the immediate commands of God performed by angels, and the contrary by devils. In the latter class were diseases: and when it is said in the scripture that
out

out of Mary Magdalen our Saviour cast seven devils, it is allowed by divines to mean so many different mental or bodily diseases. Her gratitude for this benefit induced her to become his disciple. She was present at his crucifixion, saw him laid in the tomb, carried perfumes thither to embalm him, and was the first person to whom he appeared after his resurrection. Mary Magdalen attempted to detain him, and to kiss his feet, but Jesus said unto her, "Touch me not, for I am not yet ascended to my father." He ordered her at the same time to announce his resurrection to his apostles and disciples. She is believed to have died and been buried at Ephesus. She was not the sister of Martha, for the scripture always distinguishes them; nor was she the sinner mentioned in the Gospel, who was a common woman of Nain, whose name is not mentioned, and who only appears to have seen Christ when she anointed his feet, and was dismissed by him with these words: "Go in peace, and sin no more." Nothing of this is applicable to Mary Magdalen, of whom there is no reason for the presumption that she had led a bad life, though the mistake has been perpetuated from age to age.

L'Advocat's Dictionary.

MAINTENON (FRANCES D'AUBIGNÉ, MARCHIONESS DE), *born 1635, died 1719.*

WAS descended from the ancient family of D'Aubigné; her grandfather, born in the year 1550, was a person of great merit as well as rank, a leading man among the Protestants in France, and much courted to come over to the opposite party. When he found he could be no longer safe in his own country, he fled for refuge to Geneva about the year 1619, where he was received by the

magistrates and clergy with great marks of honour and distinction, and passed the remainder of his life among them.

His son married the daughter of Peter de Cardillac, lord of Lane, in 1627, at Bourdeaux, not without some apprehensions, it is said, on the part of the lady, upon her being united, we know not how, to a man of a most infamous character, who had actually murdered his first wife, for such was Constantius D'Aubigné. Soon after his marriage, going to Paris, he was, for some very gross offence, thrown into prison, upon which she followed to solicit his pardon, but in vain; cardinal Richelieu was inflexible, and told her, that in denying her request he was doing her a friendly office. But more attached to him in consequence of his misfortunes, she at length obtained leave to confine herself with him in prison. Here she had two sons; and, becoming pregnant a third time, petitioned that he might be removed to the prison of Niort, where they should be nearer their relations, which was granted.

In this prison Madame de Maintenon was born, but was taken from it by Madame Villette, of Poitou, her aunt by the father's side, who, in compassion to the child, put her into the care of her daughter's nurse, with whom, for some time, she was bred up as a foster-sister. Madame D'Aubigné at length obtained her husband's enlargement, on condition that he should turn Roman catholic, which he promised, but did not chuse to do; and fearing to be again involved in trouble, in the year 1639 he embarked for America with his wife and family, and settled at Martinico. Madame D'Aubigné in a little time returned to France, to carry on some law-suits for the recovery of debts; but Madame Villette dissuaded her from it, and she returned to Martinico,

tinico, where she found her husband ruined by gaming. In the year 1646 he died, leaving his wife in the utmost distress, who returned to France, with her debts unpaid, and her daughter as a pledge in the hands of one of her principal creditors, who, however, soon sent her into France after her mother. Here, neglected by her mother, who was in no capacity to maintain her, she was again taken by Madame Villette to live with her; and the little Frances studied by every means in her power to render herself agreeable to a person on whom she was to depend for every thing; made it her business to insinuate herself also into the affections of her cousin, with whom she had one common nurse; and expressed a great desire to be instructed in the religion of her ancestors, so that in a short time she became firmly attached to the protestant religion. In the mean time, Madame de Neuillant, a relation by the mother's side, and a catholic, had been very assiduous in informing some considerable persons of the danger she was in, and even procured an order from court to take her out of the hands of Madame Villette, in order to be instructed in the Roman catholic religion. She took her to herself, and made a convert of her; but not without great difficulty, artifice, and severity, which at length enforced her compliance.

In 1651, Madame de Neuillant being obliged to go to Paris, took her niece along with her, and there she endured all the miseries of dependance. Her beauty and fine understanding being much admired, she delighted to humble her by representing her to her friends as an object of pity. In the mean time her mother came to Paris on a law-suit, and died with grief at its unhappy termination, as it ruined the future prospects of her children. Mademoiselle D'Au-

bigné

bigné was at this time timid, and spoke but little; but being a little more introduced into company, she learnt the manners of the world, and was much admired. At the house of the famous Scarron she was a frequent visitor, and this celebrated wit began to feel a lively interest in her concerns, and loved her without daring to avow it. This extraordinary man was, at the same time, full of gaiety, wit, and infirmities. His figure was very much deformed, but he had a feeling heart, a lively and grotesque imagination, and much patience in his ill health and poverty. He was gay in despite of pain, and satirical without malice. When he heard of what she had to suffer from her aunt, he offered either to marry her, or to pay her pension in a convent; and Mademoiselle D'Aubigné answered, that she preferred that obligation which would empower her more constantly to shew her gratitude to her benefactor. Madame Neuillant consented, and they were married. She lived with him many years, and during all the time had never quitted his presence. When he was ill, she was his nurse; when better, his companion, his amanuensis, or his reader. It was during this life of study and active complaisance, that she learned, perhaps, that pliability of will and humour, and that extent of knowledge, which afterwards were of such material advantage to her.

Voltaire makes no scruple to say, that this part of her life was undoubtedly the happiest. Her beauty, but especially her wit (for she was never reckoned a perfect beauty) and unblemished reputation, distinguished her to great advantage, and her conversation was eagerly sought by the best company in Paris; but Scarron dying in 1660, she was reduced to the same indigent condition she was in before marriage. Her friends, however, endeavoured all they could to get the pension continued to her

her which had been allowed her husband. Petitions were, in consequence, frequently presented, beginning always with "the widow Scarron most humbly prays your majesty, &c."; so that the king was so weary of them, that he was heard to say, "Must I always be pestered with the widow Scarron?" However, he at last, at the solicitation of Madame Montespan, settled a much larger pension on her, and said at the same time, "Madam, I have made you wait a long time, but you have so many friends, that I was resolved to have this merit with you on my own account."

As Madame de Montespan wished to conceal the birth of the children she had by the king, Madame Scarron was thought a proper person to be entrusted with their education. She was, therefore, created governess by him, and led a solitary and laborious life in watching with motherly solicitude, not only over the minds, but the health of the children committed to her care. What made it more unpleasant was, that during the earlier part of the time, Lewis himself disliked her, and fancied her a female pedant and a wit; but when she was obliged to write, her letters charmed him, and he could not have thought, he said, a belle esprit could have written so well.

Lewis was one day afterwards playing with the duke de Maine, and, pleased with some shrewd answer of the boy, said, "You are very wise."—"How should I be otherwise," said he, "when I am under the tuition of Wisdom herself?" This answer pleased him so much, that he sent to her a hundred thousand francs.

Yet her situation became daily more insupportable: she frequently quarrelled with Madame de Montespan, who complained of her to the king. "Why do you not dismiss her, then?" said he, "are you not the mistress?"

treasure?" She thought it, however, more easy to appease than to replace, and informed her of what he had said. Hurt and indignant at being considered so lightly, she declared she would resign her situation. Madame Montespan was alarmed: she sought to appease her; but only at the wish of the king, to whom, for the future, she was alone to be accountable, she consented to remain. In the conversations which ensued, she began, at the age of forty-eight, to win the affections of Lewis. Though still handsome, it was to her sense and mental accomplishments that this extraordinary woman was chiefly, if not wholly, indebted for the conquest of a monarch ever volatile and inconstant, till fixed by her. In her conversation, in which sallies of wit and precepts of virtue were judiciously blended, he discovered charms before unknown. During an intercourse of several years, and for the last four, of the most intimate nature, she completely won his affections. The more she was known, the more she was valued; and at length, partly from esteem, and partly from religious scruples, Lewis, by the advice of his confessor, the jesuit La Chaise, lawfully married her, Jan. 1686, when she was in her fifty-second year, and he in his forty-eighth. No contract was signed, no settlement made; the nuptial benediction was bestowed by Harlai de Chamvalon, archbishop of Paris. La Chaise was present at the ceremony; Montchevreuil, and Bon-temps, first valet-de-chambre to the king, attended as witnesses. Madame de Maintenon, for she never assumed any other title, proved herself worthy of the high station by her disinterestedness, virtue, and moderation. She exerted her credit with extreme circumspection, never interfered in political intrigues, and betrayed a greater desire to render the king happy than to govern the state. Her aggrandizement by no means tended to in-crease

crease her felicity: she led a retired life, excluded from all social intercourse with her friends; and its invariable assiduity not only produced lassitude, but excited disgust. It is to be lamented, that her fear of rendering Lewis uneasy by contradiction prevented her from doing all the good she might have done, and all she *wished* to do; yet, by an unwise exertion of power, she engaged him to acknowledge the son of James II. as king of England, in opposition to the treaty of Ryswick; and, after the dreadful defeat of the French at Blenheim, was the only one who had sufficient courage to inform the king he was no longer invincible.

He bought for her the lands of Maintenon in 1679, which was the only estate she ever had, though in the height of favour, which afforded her the means of making purchases to what value she pleased. Here she had a magnificent castle, in a delightful country, not more than fourteen leagues distant from Paris, and ten from Versailles. The king seeing her wonderfully pleased with her estate, called her publicly Madame de Maintenon, and this change of name stood her in much greater stead than she could have imagined, yet her elevation was to her only a retreat. Shut up in her apartment, which was on the same floor with the king's, she confined herself to the society of two or three ladies as retired as herself, and even those she saw but seldom. Lewis went there every day after dinner, before and after supper, and staid till midnight. Here he did business with his ministers, while she employed herself in reading or needle work, never shewing any forwardness to talk of state affairs, and carefully avoiding all appearance of cabal and intrigue. She studied more to please him who governed than to govern, and preserved her credit by employing it with the utmost circumspection. Her brother, count D'Aubigné,
a lieu-

a lieutenant-general of long standing; would have been made a marshal of France, but his indolent temper made the king wisely provide for him in a common way, as he was unfit for that high office. His daughter married the duke de Noailles. Two other nieces of Madame de Maintenon were married, the one to the marquis de Caylus, the other to the marquis de Villette. A moderate pension, however, which Lewis XIV. gave to Madame de Caylus, was almost all her fortune: the others had nothing but expectation.

The marriage was, however, kept very secret, and the only outward mark of her elevation was, that at mass she sat in one of the two little galleries or gilded domes which appeared designed for the king and queen. Besides this, she had not any exterior appearance of grandeur. The piety and devotion with which she had inspired the king became gradually a sincere and settled disposition of mind, which age and affliction confirmed. She had already, with him and the whole court, acquired the merit of a foundress, by assembling at Noissy a great number of women of quality; and the king had already destined the revenues of the abbey of St. Denis for the maintenance of this rising community. St. Cyr was built at the end of the park at Versailles in 1686. She then gave the form to this new establishment, which was for the education of three hundred young girls, of noble families, till they attained the age of twenty; and, together with Godet Desmarets, bishop of Chartres, made the rules, and was herself superior of the convent. Thither she often went to pass away some hours; and if we say, that melancholy determined her to this employment, it is what she herself has said. "Why cannot I," says she, in a letter to Madame de la Maisonfort, "why cannot I give you my experience? Why
cannot

cannot I make you sensible of that uneasiness which wears out the great, and of the difficulties they labour under to employ their time? Do not you see that I am dying with melancholy, in a height of fortune which once my imagination could scarce have conceived? I have been young and beautiful, have had a relish for pleasures, and have been the universal object of love. In my advanced age I have spent my time in intellectual amusements. I have at last risen to favour; but I protest to you, my dear girl, that every one of these conditions leaves in the mind a dismal vacuity." If any thing could shew the vanity of ambition, it would certainly be this letter. Madame de Maintenon could have no other uneasiness than the uniformity and constant restraint of her manner of living; and this made her say once to her brother, "I can hold it no longer; I wish I were dead." The way to please Lewis was never to be out of spirits or health, but the force she put upon herself for this purpose rendered her life a burthen. He was the politest of men, and always preserved for her the greatest respect; yet, as she herself complained, to "amuse a man who never can be amused," was the most perfect slavery.

They latterly lived a retired life at the convent at St. Cyr, and the court grew every day more serious. Here it was she requested Racine, who had renounced the theatre for Jansenism and the court, to compose a tragedy, and take the subject of it from the scriptures. He accordingly wrote *Esther*, which having been first represented at the house of St. Cyr, was several times afterwards acted at Versailles, before the king, in the winter of the year 1689. At the death of Lewis, which happened in 1715, Madame de Maintenon retired wholly to the convent of St. Cyr, where she spent the remain-

der of her days in acts of devotion ; and what is very surprizing, Louis XIV. made no certain provision for her, but only recommended her to the duke of Orleans. She would accept of no more than a pension of 80,000 livres, which was punctually paid till her death.

She struggled for a long time to be publickly acknowledged queen, which Lewis was inclined to grant, but in the end persuaded from doing by his counsellors. Her letters have been printed in nine volumes, in 12mo.

Female Worthies.

MARIA, *Daughter of Abraham Ben Althophael, of Granada,*

FAMOUS for her genius, memory, learning, and knowledge of music. She died in the 545th year of the Hegira.

Bibliotheca Arabico-Hispanæ Escorialiensis.

MARINA, *a famous Mexican Lady, who was of great Service to Cortez in subjugating that Kingdom.*

ACCORDING to Antonio de Solis, Marina was the daughter of the cazique of Guazwalca, a province of the kingdom of Mexico, bordering on that of Tabasco. By an accident, which is variously related, she was carried away in her youth to Xicatongo, a strong place on the frontiers of Yucatan, kept by a Mexican garrison. There she was brought up in a manner ill suited to her birth, until, by a fresh accident, sale or captivity, she became the property of the cazique of Tabasco, who presented her amongst some other Indian women to Cortez. She was superior both in beauty and intelligence to her companions, and understood not only the Mexican but the
Yucatan

Yucatan language, and thereby proved a check upon the other interpreters. Besides, she soon acquired the Spanish tongue, and indeed manifested an admirable talent for attaining languages. By her address she found out a conspiracy to destroy the Spaniards on a certain day, and discovered it to Cortez. Bernardo Diaz calls her the excellent Donna Marina.

Modern Universal History.

MARINELLA (LUCRETIA),

A VENETIAN lady of great wit and beauty, who wrote many popular works in prose and verse; amongst which is one to prove the superiority of women, in courage, address, virtue, and prudence, &c. called *La Nobilita delle Donne*, printed at Venice 1601, 8vo.; the *Lives of St. Francis and the Virgin Mary*, &c.

F. C. &c.

MARLBOROUGH (SARAH, DUCHESS OF), *Daughter and Coheiress of Richard Jennings, Esq. of Sandridge, in Hertfordshire, Maid of Honour to Princess, afterwards Queen Anne;*

MARRIED to the great duke of Marlborough in 1681. She was then about twenty-one, and universally esteemed one of the finest women in England in her person, and of great parts and wit; she had much influence over the mind of the princess Anne, in her conduct afterwards, insomuch that she is supposed to have advised the latter to insist on the provision of 50,000 per annum, which did not please king William. In the meantime, some infamous persons plotted the ruin of the duke, and insinuated, that through his wife the coun-
cils

cils of the king were betrayed to the friends of James. In the account the duchess of Marlborough gives of her conduct, she says, " Soon after, a dreadful plot broke out, which was said to have been hid somewhere, I don't know where, in a flower-pot, and my lord Marlborough was sent to the Tower." He was, however, soon bailed, and the contrivance laid open, which forced king William to set him at liberty; though, from Dr. Somerville's account of the reign of Queen Anne, it appears he was neither suspected without cause, nor that William had any real confidence in him. He, however, recommended him to Queen Anne, and during her reign he performed those actions which have rendered his name immortal, and remained in great favour with her till a new female favourite supplanted the duchess; but on his return in 1709, he began to suspect the change that took place; and when he came over the next year, though the queen was still polite towards him, he found her dislike towards the duchess so apparent, that seeing it could be no longer dissembled, on the 19th of January he carried the gold key, the ensign of his wife's dignity, to the queen, and surrendered all her employments. In 1712, he was dismissed from his; and as his duchess had shared his glory, she shared also his disgrace, and attended him in all his journies, particularly in his visit to the principality of Mindelheim, which had been given him by the emperor. Just before the death of queen Anne, they again returned to England, and he came into favour in the reign of George I. They lost their only son young, but the dukedom descended to the eldest of his four daughters, who were all greatly married. Colley Cibber, who was in raptures with her beauty, said, she became a great-grandmother without grey hairs. Swift says, the duke was indebted to

to

to her for his greatness and his fall, as for above twenty years she possessed the favour of the most indulgent mistress in the world, and never missed an opportunity of forwarding her interest, but her temper was the cause of her losing it. Bishop Burnet says, “ she was a woman of little knowledge, but of a clear apprehension, and a true judgment; a warm and hearty friend, violent and sudden in her resolutions, and impetuous in her way of speaking. She was thought proud and insolent on her favour, though she used none of the common arts of a court to maintain it, for she did not beset the princess, nor flatter her. She stayed much at home, and looked very carefully after the education of her children.”

In 1742, was published, *An Account of the Conduct of the Dowager Duchess of Marlborough, from her first coming to Court to the Year 1710.*” This work, which was meant to vindicate the part she had acted during her connection with queen Anne, is curious and interesting, and of use in elucidating our history. It was written under her direction by Mr. Hooke, to whom she gave five thousand pounds. She had a quarrel with him afterwards, because, as she affirmed, he endeavoured to convert her to popery; yet, according to Swift, she had little opinion of even the general doctrines of christianity. This work displays much pique and passion, and shews the little events which sometimes influence the fate of nations. Pope characterised her under the name of Atossa, which she discovered and resented, though she afterwards forgave and courted him.

She was rather famous for a rough kind of wit. Lord Somers once paid a visit of ceremony to her husband in his illness. There had been a great coldness between these noblemen for some time; but his lordship brought

a cordial with him, which he earnestly recommended to his grace, saying, “ He would be hanged, if it was not serviceable to him.” The duchess instantly said, “ Take it then, my lord duke ; it must infallibly be of use to you one way or other.” The duke died 1722 ; she 1744.

Treasury of Wit. Biog. Brit.

MAROZIA, *a Lady of Rank, Concubine to Pope Sergius III. famous for her Licentiousness, Intrigues, and Politics.*

SHE procured John X. to be deposed, Leo VI. to be put to death in prison, and in 931 placed on the pontifical throne John IX. whom she had by Sergius III. Marozia had been successively wife to Adalbert and his son Guy ; and when the latter died, Hugh, king of Italy and Provence, Guy’s brother-in-law, married her, that he might be master of the castle of Rome.

L’Advocat’s Biog.

MARQUETS (ANNE DE) *of a noble Family, entered among the Dominican Nuns at Poissy, and died there 1588.*

UNDERSTANDING Greek and Latin, she translated from the latter the Poems of Flaminus, Paris, 1569, 8vo. ; and also the Latin Commentary, by Claude d’Espence, on the Sunday Collects ; and wrote Sonnets for the Sundays. A collection of her fugitive pieces was published, which were much admired by Ronsard. Claude d’Espence was her friend, and left her an annuity of 30 livres, by his will, dated 1571. She lost her sight two years before she died.

F. C. &c.

MARY

MARY (THE VIRGIN).

AT the time of declaring the punishment of Adam and Eve, for the transgression which occasioned their fall from innocence and happiness, it was promised, that, as woman had first broken the compact of obedience to her Maker, and been the most severely punished for it, her seed should redeem the lost privileges of mankind, and open again the gates of heaven to those who had made themselves unworthy of it. A continuation of predictions, for 4000 years, at different periods, enlarged and particularized this prophecy, till, in the year, as it is supposed, of the world 4004, an angel appeared unto Mary, the contracted wife of Joseph her cousin, of the tribe of Judah and house of David, to proclaim to her that she was destined to be the mother of this universal deliverer. Joseph, *who was minded to put her away privily*, was likewise visited by the same holy messenger, who said, “Fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife; for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.” On visiting her cousin Elizabeth, then pregnant of John the Baptist, she by inspiration hailed the mother of our Lord, and Mary pronounced that beautiful hymn, which will ever be a monument of her humility and gratitude. The same year she went to Bethlehem, in obedience to the edict of Augustus, who, wishing to know with certainty the population of his empire, commanded all the people to repair to stated cities, and have their names inrolled. She was there, in consequence of the great concourse of people, delivered of the Son of God in a manger. She saw his wisdom, his miracles, and finally his crucifixion, when he consigned her to the care of his beloved

apostle St. John, to whose house she accordingly went, and spent with him the remainder of her days.

A Persian MS. says that the Virgin Mary was sixteen when she became pregnant, and one hundred and two when she died, living sixty-six years after our Saviour's ascension. This would not agree with our method of counting, the Mahometans reckoning by lunar years; so that what with us is but one, is with them a year and a month. It goes on, saying that some authors make Mary live only six years after the ascension of our Saviour; and that at the time of her death she was fifty-two.

MARY (QUEEN OF ENGLAND), *Daughter of King Henry VIII, by Catharine of Arragon; born at Greenwich, in Kent, 1547.*

IN her infancy her mother committed her to the care of the lady Margaret, countess of Salisbury, daughter to George, duke of Clarence, brother to Edward IV, and mother to the famous cardinal Pole, with a view, as is supposed, to marry the princess to one of the said countess's sons, to strengthen her title, by that alliance to the house of York.

Queen Catherine was very careful of her education, and appointed several excellent tutors to perfect her in the Latin tongue. Under their tuition she became so great a proficient in the Latin tongue, that Erasmus commends her much for her epistles in that language, as wrote in a good style. Towards the latter end of her father's reign, at the earnest request of Catherine Parr, she undertook the translation of Erasmus's paraphrase on the gospel of St. John; which Mr. Udall, a
very

very good judge, says, was admirably performed. To this Mr. Udall wrote a preface, wherein he observes “ the great number of noble women at that time in England, not only given to the study of human sciences and strange tongues, but also so thoroughly expert in holy scriptures, that they were able to compare with the best writers, as well in inditeing and penning of godly and fruitfull treatises, to the instruction and edifying of realms in the knowledge of God, as also in translating good books out of Latin or Greek into English, for the use and commodity of such as are rude and ignorant of the said tongues.”

In Mr. Fox’s *Acts and Monuments*, are printed eight letters, written by the princess Mary to King Edward VI, and to the lords of the council, concerning her non-conformity to the establishment, and about the imprisonment and releasing her chaplain, Dr. Francis Mallet.

In the appendix to Mr. Strype’s 3d vol. of *Historical Memorials*, No. 82, is a prayer of the lady Mary to the Lord Jesu, against the assault of vice. And No. 83, is a meditation touching adversity ; made by lady Mary’s grace, 1549.

In the *Sylloge Epistolarum*, at the end of T. Livy’s *Life of King Henry V*, published by Mr. Hearne, is a large collection of Queen Mary’s letters.

In the Bodleian library, B. 94, is a manuscript primer, curiously illuminated, which was formerly Queen Mary’s, and afterwards Prince Henry’s. It was given him by Richard Connock, Esq; July 7, 1615. Just at the beginning of the Psalms, is the following passage, written by Queen Mary’s own hand, viz. ‘ Geate you such riches as when the shippe is broken may swyme away wythe the master. For dyverse chances take away the goods of fortune. But the goods of the soule,

whych been only the trewe goods, nother fyr nor water can take away, If you take labour and payne to do a vertuous thyng, the labour goeth away and the vertue remayneth. Yf throughe pleasure you do any vicious thyng, the pleasure goeth away and the vice remayneth. Good madam, for my sake remember thys.

Your lovyng mistress,

‘ MARYE PRINCESSE.’

What we have hitherto said of the lady Mary, relates to her literary character; what yet remains untold, respects her conduct after she ascended the throne.

King Edward her brother dying 1553, she was on the 20th of the same month proclaimed, and on the 1st of October following, crowned in the abbey church at Westminster, by Stephen Gardiner, bishop of Winchester; she was married to Philip, Prince of Spain, eldest son of the Emperor Charles V; and having reigned five years, four months and eleven days, died of a fever, occasioned by her disappointment in not having children, and by the absence and unkindness of King Philip, in her palace at St. James’s 1558, in the 43d year of her age; and was buried on the north side of King Henry VIIIth’s chapel, Westminster.

It is painful to dwell on the events of Mary’s reign. Her sour and bigotted temper, not only made herself unhappy, but deluged the kingdom with innocent blood, by the barbarous persecution of the protestants during her reign.

Some protestants seem to think, that the Queen, in herself, abstracted from her opinions and bigotted counsellors, was of a compassionate disposition, and that most of those barbarities were committed by her bishops without her privity or knowledge. But this

must

must appear very unaccountable to any one who duly considers the vicinity of St. James's to the place where many of these inhumanities were put in execution. It seems next to impossible, that Smithfield should be kept in flames almost five years together, and Mary know little or nothing of it; and if she was of so compassionate a nature, it is surprising that she should not relent at it. Can even charity itself excuse her unkind and inhuman treatment of her sister Elizabeth? Or can it be supposed, that a princess, so much inclined to shew mercy to her subjects, could admit of a council for the taking up and burning her father's body? The ungrateful and perfidious breach of her promise to her faithful and loyal subjects the Suffolk men, was a most flagrant instance of the ferocity of her temper! And after judge Hales had so strenuously defended and maintained her right of succession to the crown, she treated him in the most ungenerous and barbarous manner! neither was her usage of archbishop Cranmer less cruel; especially since his great and well known reluctance to the excluding her from the succession, and his preserving her life in the reign of her father, who would have sacrificed her to his fury, for not complying with the regulations he made in religion, had not the archbishop interposed and mollified his resentment, were obligations of such a nature, as would have engaged a temper the least susceptible of gratitude, not only to excuse the part which he acted in the affair of her mother's divorce, but also to afford him, if not her favour and confidence, yet at least her protection.

There are eight of her letters to King Edward and the lords of the council, on her nonconformity, and on the imprisonment of her chaplain, Mr. Mallet, in Fox's *Acts and Monuments*. In the *Sylloge Epistolarum* are several

several more of her letters, extremely curious : one on the subject of her delicacy, in never having written but to three men ; one of affection for her sister ; one after the death of Anne Boleyn ; and one, very remarkable, of Cromwell to her. In Haynes's *State Papers* are two, in Spanish, to the emperor Charles V. There is also a French letter, printed by Strype, in the *Cotton Library*, in answer to a haughty mandate of Philip, when he had a mind to marry Elizabeth to the duke of Savoy, against the queen's and princess's inclination. It is written in a most abject manner, and in a wretched style.

Female Worthies. Biog. Dict.

MARY II. and MARY, *Queen of Scots.*

See STUART.

MARY, an *Anglo-Norman Poetess, of the 13th Century.*

It is well known that all the Northern nations had a sort of oral, itinerant poets, who were admired and revered by them, under different titles. The Normans, being a colony from Norway and Denmark, it is probable that many would accompany Rollo at the time of his expedition into France, and leave behind them successors in the art ; who in time, mixing with the people, became Troubadours or Norman Rymours ; who were in the following century introduced into England by Rollo's descendant, William the Conqueror. Among these Anglo-Norman *Trouveurs*, Mary, who has been called

called the Sappho of her age, makes a considerable figure.

We are informed by this lady, that she was born in France; but she does not mention in what province, or the reasons which induced her to come to England. Perhaps it was Normandy, as Philip-Augustus made himself master of that country in 1204; and many families, from attachment to the English government, went over and settled in Great Britain.

She appears to have understood the *Bas Breton*, or Armoric tongue, whence it may be also inferred she was born in Brittany; she was besides extremely well versed in the literature of that province, and borrowed much from the writers of that country. She might, however, acquire both the Armoric and English languages. She was also well acquainted with the Latin, and from her application to those different languages must have been of a rank of life that allowed her leisure to attain them. She has, however, said nothing which can throw light upon her station or her family name.

The first poems of Mary are *A Collection of Lays, in French Verse, on the Romances of Chivalry amongst the Welch and Armoric Britons*, which she dedicated to some King.

Mons. La Rue, the acute and elegant historian of Mary, in the 13th vol. of the *English Archæologia*, determines it to be Henry III. These are twelve in number, and constitute the largest and most ancient specimen of Anglo-Norman poetry of this kind, that has been handed down to us. "The smaller ones are in general of much importance, as to the knowledge of ancient chivalry. She has described manners with a pencil at once faithful and pleasing; arrests the attention of her readers by the subjects of her stories, by the interest which she skillfully

fully blends in them, and by the simple and natural manner in which she relates them. In spite of her rapid and flowing stile, nothing is forgotten in her details and descriptions. Mary did not only possess a most refined taste; she had also to boast a mind of sensibility. The English muse seems to have inspired her, all her subjects are sad and melancholy. She appears to have designed to melt the hearts of her readers; always speaks to the soul, calls forth all its feelings, and very frequently throws it into the utmost consternation."

Her second work is a collection of *Æsopian Fables*, which, she says, she engaged in at the solicitation of an *Earl William, the flower of chivalry and courtesy*. This earl, whom Le Grand, the translator of some of the fables into French prose, supposes to have been earl William de Dampiere, M. la Rue shews must have been William Longsword, natural son of Henry II. and created earl of Salisbury by Richard Cœur de Lion.

There are three MS. copies of this work in the British Museum. Though these fables are called *Æsopian*, few of them are really so. It is supposed she made her translation from an heterogeneous collection, not now in being; because, out of 108 fables in her work, there are only 39 which are similar to those we have of that ancient writer. "Her fables are written with all that acuteness of mind, that penetrates the very inmost recesses of the human heart; and, at the same time, with that beautiful simplicity peculiar to the ancient romance language. It appears that Fontaine has imitated her, rather than the fabulists of either Greece or Rome, and some fables he has taken completely from her.

A third work of Mary's, is a translation, in French verse, of a history or tale of *St. Patrick's Purgatory*.

Whether

Whether she wrote any more is uncertain ; but no more has come down to us.

British Critic, Dec. 1800.

MARY, *of the Incarnation, a celebrated Mouline Nun, whose Name was Mary Guyert; born 1599, at Tours; died at Quebec, 1672, aged 73.*

Being left a widow at 32, she became a nun, and wrote a book for Novices, called *L'Ecole Chrétienne* ; in 1639 she went to Quebec, and established a convent of her order there, which she governed with prudence and moderation. There is a 4to. volume of her's, containing a *Retreat*, and *Letters*. Dom. Claudius Martin, her son, who died 1696, published her life, which has also been written by Pere Charlevoix, a Jesuit.

L'Advocat's Biog.

MARY (ANTOINETTE), *Archduchess of Austria, Daughter of Maria Theresa, and Wife to Louis XVI, King of France; beheaded 1793.*

THE duke de Choiseul, wishing to counterballance the power of Mad. Dubarry, mistress to Louis XV, thought nothing more likely than to marry the dauphin, grandson of that monarch, to a grand-duchess of Austria, and thus put an end to the enmity of the two houses. As the herald of peace Antoinette arrived, and the beauty of her person, and graces of manner, concurred to render the impression favourable. Her complexion was very fair, her face oval, eyes blue, mild and intelligent, an aquiline nose, and a little mouth, with what is called an Austrian lip; fine light hair—a well-proportioned figure, and beautiful hands. She had not yet done growing:

These attractions of person were seconded by an ingenuous and affable manner, her charms were those of *naieté*. The king was enchanted with her, and his flattering reception hindered her from perceiving the little emotion her husband shewed. He had been taught by the duke de la Vauguyon to have a very low opinion of women, and esteemed marriage only a duty owing to his rank. Many years are said to have passed before she inspired him with that tender and pure attachment, which afterwards ended but with his life. The nuptials were brilliant in the highest degree; but she was fatigued with the ceremonials and restraints of the French court. Madame Dubarry and her friends found that, directed by Choiseul, Antoinette would soon have all the power in her own hands; and, after many attempts, persuaded the king to banish that minister, who left Paris accompanied by many of the nobility. Had the dauphiness been older, she might have made use of her favour with Louis to have shewn him the snare in which his favourites were bringing him; but she was a child, whom her enemies amused by a thousand little arts, to prevent her taking any part in the affair.

Louis XV. died 1774, of the small-pox, which made him abandoned by all his family, but his daughters, who were affectionate children to a tender parent. They all fell sick of the same disorder, but recovered. Though given up to gaiety and dissipation, the credit of the young queen had daily gained ground with her husband. She wished to create a new situation for Madame de Lamballe at court, which the king did not disapprove; but M. Turgot, the minister, opposed it strongly on account of the pension.—The queen, astonished to prove this opposition, complained, and the minister was dismissed to make room for Neckar, who

was

was more complaisant; but Mde. de Lamballe was soon supplanted by Madame de Polignac.

In 1777 the emperor Joseph, brother to the queen, visited France, under the name of count Falkenstein.—It was supposed he came in the hope of gaining pecuniary assistance to carry on his wars, and that the queen furthered this view as much as possible, but without success. From the tenderness she shewed towards him, a suspicion stole into the minds of the French, that she kept up a correspondence with him, detrimental to the welfare of the state; but no other proof of it has appeared.

The circumstances which led to their conceiving so bitter a hate towards her, the limits of this work do not allow us to state progressively. Heedless extravagance and dissipation seem to have been the source; faults certainly both foolish and unfeeling! but the sufferings she underwent, still fresh in the memory of every one, more than expiated them. A long confinement, a series of alarms and agitation, the violent death of a husband who tenderly loved her, and whom she seems to have loved, the mournful prospect for her children, and her own sad fate, must entitle her to the commiseration of every feeling mind.

Memoirs of M. de Lamballe, &c.

MALATESTA (BAPTISTA), *Daughter of Guido, Prince of Urbino, and Wife of Galeas Malatesta,*

WAS one of the most beautiful and wisest persons of her time. She excelled not only in eloquence, but in philosophy and theology, and was author of many works, amongst which are, 1, *De la Condition de la Fragilité Humaine*; 2, *De la Veritable Religion*. There are

are also many letters of hers extant, written in a very elegant stile. After the death of her husband she became a nun at Urbino.

F. C.

MALEGUZZI (VERONICA), *Daughter of the Count Gabriel Maleguzzi-Valery, of Reggio, in Lombardy, in the 17th Century,*

WAS deeply versed in all speculative sciences and liberal arts. She sustained twice public theses, and was patronized by the first people. She had also some talent for poetry, as she wrote a prologue, in verse, to *L'Innocence Recon nue*, a work in prose, which she published 1660. She became afterwards a nun at Modena, where she led an exemplary life.

F. C.

MALIPIERA (OLYMPIA), *a Lady of Venice, who died 1559.*

MANY of her pieces are scattered in the poetical collections of the 17th century, and they are published in the *Rime di Cinquante Poëtresse*, printed at Naples.

MANLEY (MRS.), *the celebrated Author of the New Atalantis, was the Daughter of Sir Roger Manley, and born in Guernsey, or one of those small Islands, of which her Father was Governor; died 1724.*

MRS. MANLEY received an education suitable to her birth; and gave early discoveries of a genius above her years. She had the misfortune to lose her mother while yet

yet an infant, and her father before she was grown up; which was the cause of many calamities that befel her: for she was cheated into a marriage by a relation of the same name, to whose care Sir Roger had bequeathed her, and who at the time had a wife living. She was brought to London, and soon deserted by him; and in the morning of her life, passed away three wretched years in solitude. When she appeared in the world again, she fell by mere accident in the way of the duchess of Cleveland, a mistress of Charles II, who protected her for a little time; but being a woman of a fickle temper, she grew tired of her in six months, and discharged her under pretence that she intrigued with her son. On this she retired again into solitude, and wrote her first tragedy, called *The Royal Mischief*, which was acted at the theatre in Lincoln's-Inn Fields, in 1696, and received such unbounded applause, that her acquaintance began to be courted by men of wit and gaiety; and relaxing from the conduct she had hitherto maintained, she afterwards engaged in a life of intrigue. In her retired hours she wrote the four vols. of the *Memoirs of the New Atalantis*, in which she was not only free with her own sex, but with many distinguished personages. Her father had always been attached to the cause of Charles I, and she herself had a confirmed aversion to a Whig ministry; so that many of the characters were only satires on those who had brought about the revolution. Upon this a warrant was granted to seize the printer and publisher; but Mrs. Manley, who had too much generosity to let them suffer on her account, voluntarily presented herself before the court of King's Bench, as the author. She was, however, admitted to bail; and, from the feigned names and places of action, nothing being brought home to her, she was acquitted.

Not

Not long after, a total change of ministry ensued, when she lived in high reputation, and amused herself with writing poems and letters, and conversing with wits. The second edition of a volume of her Letters was published in 1713. *Lucius, the first Christian King of Great Britain, a Tragedy*, was likewise acted at Drury-lane in 1717. She dedicated it to Sir Richard Steele, whom she had abused in her *Atalantis*; but with whom she was now on such good terms, that he wrote the prologue, as Mr. Prior did the epilogue. These, with the comedy of the *Lest Lover, or the Jealous Husband*, acted in 1696, were all her dramatic works. She was employed in writing for Queen Anne's ministry, certainly with the consent and privity, if not under the direction of Doctor Swift; during which time, she formed a connexion with Mr. John Barber, alderman of London, at whose house she died 1724.

Gen. Biog. Dic.

MANTO; *Daughter of Tiresias; a Woman famous in Antiquity for her Knowledge of Divination.*

AFTER the taking of Thebes by the seven chiefs, the Argives, to whose share Manto fell, and who had vowed to consecrate the most valuable part of their plunder to Apollo, thought they fulfilled it, by sending this young woman to be his priestess at Delphi. She was mother of Amphilochus and Tisiphone, by Alcmeon, general of the army which took Thebes. Many of the ancient writers tell different fables concerning her: and Diodorus Siculus says, that she wrote a number of oracles, and that she was called the *Sybil*, from the inspiration of
her

her answers. They say also, that Homer has ornamented his works with many of her verses.

F. C.

MANTOVANA (DIANA),

A BEAUTIFUL girl, whom Vasari saw at Mantua, in the year 1566; and at the sight of whose finely cut intaglios, he expressed the greatest surprise and delight.

Abec. Pitt.

MARCH (AGNES, COUNTESS OF),

A SCOTCH heroine, called by her countrymen, Black Agnes, defended the castle of Dunbar successfully against the English, in about 1340. When a bulwark was battered by them, she would order her waiting-maids to brush off the dust with their handkerchiefs; and when a dreadful engine approached, "Montague," she cried to the English commander, "beware!" and straightway it was crushed by an enormous mass of rock.

Andrew's Great Britain.

MARCHEBRUSC (M. CHABOT, MOTHER OF),
called likewise Marchabruna, a Lady of the ancient House of Chabot, in Poitou, who came to live in Provence.

LEARNED and polite, she had great talents for poetry, and versified equally well in the Provençal and other living languages. Having chosen Avignon for her residence, she held there what was called a court of love, which seems to have been an institution to criticize and

encourage the lighter branches of literature. It was open to all the poets, and gentlemen and ladies of the country. She acquired so great a reputation, that every little piece of her writing was esteemed a treasure. It does not appear that she had any other children than Marchebusc, who was as good a poet as herself, and wrote a work *On the Nature of Love*, in which he recited all the good and evil that it produced. This poem has, however, been attributed to his mother; and another, “*Pictures of Love*,” said to be the one written by him. They flourished at Avignon, under the pontificate of Clement VI.

Some have supposed that the sonnets Petrarch made against Rome, were made against the mother of Marchebusc; upon which Tassoni, in his reflections on that poet, says, “a certain Provençal, named Nostredamus, reports, we believe with little probability, that the three sonnets, *Fiammia dal Ciel*, &c. *L’Avara Babylonia*, and *Fontano di Dolore*, were made against the mother of Marc Brusc, a Provençal poet, which lady also wrote poems, and was much celebrated in her time.”

F. C.

MARCELLA,

A ROMAN widow, the intimate friend of Paula, and of Eustochium, who was instructed by her; from whence it is easy to judge, says St. Jerom, the merit of a mistress who could form such disciples. It was in 382, that, going to Rome, he became acquainted with Marcella, who, being very learned in the scriptures, consulted him on many difficult passages. She was consulted from all parts, as a great theologian; and her answers were always dictated by prudence and humility. She was a great enemy to the heresy of Origen, who mingled

mingled the dogmas of philosophy with the doctrines of Christianity. She died 409, soon after Rome was taken by the Goths.

F. C.

MARCIA, (DI MARCO VARRONE),

A FEMALE painter, who drew many Roman women; she surpassed, in velocity of pencil, Sopilus and Dionysius, the most celebrated painters of the age.

Abecedario Pitt.

MARCIA PROBA, *Wife of Guithelind, King of the Ancient Britons, before the Birth of our Saviour.*

It is said, that having lost her husband very young, she took into her own hand the reins of government, and employed herself in making his people happy, by the wise laws she gave them. These laws were called *Leges Marcianæ*, or the Marcian Laws. They were translated into Latin by Gildas, and into Saxon by Alfred the Great.

F. C.

MARESCOTTI (MARGARET),

A POETESS of Sienna, in the 16th century, of much merit.

F. C.

MARGARET (QUEEN OF SCOTLAND); *a Woman of the rarest Piety, and of a Character fitted to throw a Lustre on the purest Ages.*

She was sister to Edgar Atheling, the grandson of Ed-

mond Ironside. From the court of Solomon, king of Hungary, their grandfather, they came over to England; but on the accession of Harold, fled with their mother Agatha, and a younger sister, and were cast ashore on the coast of Scotland, where they were hospitably received by the king Malcolm, who, by the assistance of Edward the Confessor, had recovered the throne of Scotland from the usurper Macbeth. Malcolm, in 1066, married Margaret. Wonderful things are related of her piety, liberality, and humility. Through her influence the ferocious spirit of her husband received an happy tincture of humanity, and so high' was his opinion of her wisdom, that he made her partaker of his power. She was thus enabled to reform the kingdom of Scotland, in a great degree; she rendered the people happier by a diminution of taxes, succoured the unfortunate, and introduced a more serious regard to the duties of the sabbath than had been known before in that country. She had, by Malcolm, six sons and three daughters. Three of the former reigned successively, and were esteemed excellent monarchs. Her daughter, the wife of Henry I, of England, was lovely, patient, and benevolent. She obtained the name of Matilda the Good. Margaret had taken uncommon care of her children's education, and the fruits of her labours appeared in their lives. Theodoric, her confessor, observes, that she was remarkably attentive in public prayer. "And," says he, "she would discourse with me concerning the sweetness of everlasting life, in such a manner as to draw tears from my eyes." This same Theodoric, a monk of Durham, wrote her life. She was afflicted with sickness at the very time in which her husband Malcolm was slain at Alnwick, in Northumberland, in the reign of William Rufus, in 1093. The
bitter

bitter news was brought to her ears, and her reflection upon it was truly christian; "I thank thee, O Lord, that in sending me so great an affliction, thou wouldest purify me from my sins. O Lord Jesus Christ, who by thy death hast given life to the world, deliver me from evil." She survived this event only a few days.

The domestics of this excellent woman were remarkable for their steadiness and good conduct. She was anxious to know and amend her faults, and would often gently reprove her confessor, that he seemed not careful enough of her salvation, in pointing them out to her. "O how happy," said she, "are the poor, to whom truth is told!" By reason of the long wars which had desolated the kingdom, quarrels, murder, rapine, and licentiousness, raged among the nobles and people; indifference and irreligion among the clergy. Margaret, whose conjugal tenderness, unaffected wisdom, benevolence and humility, had softened the heart, and won the entire confidence of her husband, who held her in such reverence, that he would often kiss the book in which she said her prayers, pointed out to him these evils, and induced him to set about a reform of all abuses; to expedite the tediousness of law, to punish the corruptions of the courts of justice, to protect the poor, and repress the insolence of the soldiers. The restoration of regularity in the church was also one of her great cares, which she happily accomplished. She built and repaired many churches, and established the custom of anointing the kings in Scotland, which was not heretofore practised. She made laws also to enforce temperance. She reasoned with those who did not receive the holy communion. "We are *all unworthy*," said she, "but we are all equally enjoined to partake of it." She served the

poor in sickness, however loathsome or offensive, with assiduity and kindness, and appears to have been that best and wisest of all human characters, a true christian.

Idea of Perfect Ladies, &c.

MARGARET (*the Semiramis of the North*), *third Daughter of Waldemar, King of Denmark; born 1353, died suddenly 1412, at the Age of 59.*

At the age of six she was contracted to Haquin, king of Norway; but the Swedes, of whom his father Magnus was king, insisted on his renouncing the alliance; and to oblige them, he consented to demand Elizabeth of Holstein in marriage. This princess, however, though espoused by proxy, was not destined to replace Margaret. A storm drove her on the coast of Denmark, where she was detained by Waldemar, until his daughter was married to Haquin, in 1366.

Waldemar died 1375, leaving two daughters, his other children had died before him. Margaret was the younger; but her son Olaüs, was king of Norway, and, as grandson to Magnus, who had however been deposed, had some claims on the crown of Sweden. The eldest daughter Ingeburga, duchess of Mecklenburg, had also a son; but the rights of succession were then confused and of little certainty, and by means of Margaret the election was decided in favour of her son, then eleven years old, who was placed upon the throne, under her guidance as regent till he should be of age. Haquin died soon after. Olaüs died 1387, at the age of twenty-two; with him the male line was extinct, and custom had not yet authorized the election of a woman. Henry of Mecklenburg, her brother in law, omitted nothing that could forward his pretensions; but Margaret's genius and well-placed liberality, won
over

over the bishops and the clergy, which was in effect gaining the greater part of the people, and she was unanimously elected to the crown of Denmark. But her ambition grasped at that of Norway also; she sent deputies to solicit the states, gained over the chief people by money, and found means to render herself mistress of the army and garrisons, so that, had the nation been otherwise disposed, she would in the end have succeeded; but she gained them over to her measures as easily as she had those of Denmark. The Norwegians, perceiving that the succession was in danger of being extinct, entreated her to secure it by an advantageous marriage, but she received the proposal coldly. To satisfy, however, their desire, she consented to appoint a successor; but fixed on one so young, that she should have full time to satiate her ambition, before he could be of age to take any share in the government, yet, as being the true heir, and grandson of her sister, she contrived to make it appear more their choice than her own.

She recommended herself so strongly to the Swedes, who were oppressed by their own king Albert, who had gone to war with her, that they renounced their allegiance to that prince and made her a solemn tender of their crown, thinking that her good sense would set bounds to her ambition, and prevent any encroachment on their rights. She accepted the offer, marched to their assistance, and defeated Albert, who was deposed after a war of seven years in 1388; and obliged him, after a seven years imprisonment, and solemn renunciation of his crown, to retire to the dominions of his brother the duke of Mecklenburg. On this revolution in Sweden, Margaret assumed the reins of government, and was distinguished

distinguished by the appellation of the Semiramis of the North.

In 1395 she associated with her in the three elective kingdoms her great nephew Eric, duke of Pomernia. She governed with absolute authority, and when reminded of her oaths, by the nobility, who added, "they had the records of it;" she replied, "I advise you to keep them carefully; as I shall keep the castles and cities of my kingdom, and all the rights belonging to my dignity."

"This queen," says a French author, "was magnificent in her pleasures, grand in her projects, brilliant in her court. She equalled, in the quickness and extent of her genius, the most famous politicians. The king Waldemar discovering in her, while yet a child, a surprising elevation of soul and mental resources, said that Nature had been deceived in forming her, and instead of a woman had made a hero."

Though merciful, she laid the wisest regulations for strict justice, and to prevent offenders being screened from punishment. Private oppressions and abuses she did away, and decreed that all manner of assistance should be given to those who were thrown on their coasts by shipwreck or misfortune; for which acts of humanity, rewards were provided by law.—She renewed the ancient laws which had slept, and exerted all her powers to suppress piracies, in her kingdoms, and made such regulations as laid the foundations for future commerce: it was in her reign that we first meet with the mention in history of the copper mines of Sweden.

At the treaty of Calmar, concluded in 1397, she endeavoured to make the union of the three kingdoms perpetual, and introduced Eric separately to
all

all the deputies. She represented to them, with abundance of eloquence and address, the advantages that would accrue from the consolidation of the three nations into one kingdom. That it would put an end to the frequent wars that desolated them; render them entire masters of the commerce of the Baltic; keep in awe the Hanse towns, grown powerful by the divisions of her people; and acquire for them, all the conveniences which result from a perfect conformity of customs, laws and interest. The majesty of her person, the strength of her arguments, and the sweetness of her eloquence gained over the deputies. They approved and established a fundamental law, which was received by the three nations, and solemnly confirmed by oath. This was the law so celebrated in the north, under the name of the Union of Calmar; which afterwards only served to shew how impotent are human wishes, though conceived with wisdom, and forwarded with address. This union afterwards gave birth to wars between Sweden and Denmark, without fulfilling the views of the projector.

Margaret is charged with only one political error, that of suffering Oläus to grant the important duchy of Sleswick to the house of Holstein, whose enmity they wished thus to do away; but which proved a thorn in her side, till the death of its duke, when she by her vigorous measures drove his successors to submit to hold their possessions as a fief from Denmark.

Distinguished at the same time for moderation, solid judgement, enterprising and persevering ambition, Margaret receives different characters from the Danish and Swedish historians.—The latter were prejudiced

judiced against her, because she abridged the power of their nobles, and favoured the clergy; but she was exceeded by none in prudence, policy and true magnanimity.

Modern History. Anderson's Origin of Commerce, &c.

MARGARET of ANJOU, *Daughter of Regnier, titular king of Sicily, Naples and Jerusalem, descended from a Count of Anjou, who had left those magnificent Titles to his Posterity, without any real Power or Possessions.*

SHE was however the most accomplished princess of that age, both in body and mind; and the rival parties of the cardinal of Winchester and the Duke of Gloucester, being then ambitious of choosing a wife for the young Henry II, King of England, that of the former prevailed, and Margaret was elected, who seemed to possess those qualities, which would enable her to acquire an ascendant over Henry, and to supply all his defects and weaknesses. In 1443, the treaty of marriage was ratified in England; and Margaret, on her arrival, fell immediately into close connections with the cardinal and his party; who, fortified by her powerful patronage, resolved on the final ruin of the Duke of Gloucester, and that good prince at length fell a sacrifice to court intrigues, after being accused of treason and thrown into prison, where he was soon after found dead in his bed; and, although his body bore no marks of outward violence, no one doubted but he had fallen a victim to the vengeance of his enemies.

Henry being a mere cypher in the government, the
admi-

administration was in the hands of the queen and the earl of Suffolk, who had contracted universal odium at the time of the duke of York's aspiring to the crown. Margaret was considered as a French woman, and a latent enemy to the kingdom, who had betrayed the interests of England, in favour of her family and country. Suffolk was considered as her accomplice; and the downfall of the Duke of Gloucester, who was universally beloved, in which they were both known to have been concerned, rendered them yet more obnoxious.

The partizans of the Duke of York, taking advantage of this, impeached the earl of Suffolk of various crimes; and the king, in order to save his minister, banished him the kingdom for five years. But his enemies, sensible that he enjoyed the queen's confidence, and would be recalled the first opportunity, got him intercepted and murdered on his passage.

The duke of Somerset succeeded to Suffolk's power in the administration, and credit with the queen; but he having been unfortunate in the French war, was equally the object of dislike, and the queen and council, unable to protect him, were obliged to give him up: he was also sent to the tower; and, as Henry had fallen into a distemper which increased his natural imbecility, the duke of York was created Protector during pleasure.

But Henry recovering, was advised by his friends to reverse all this; in consequence, the duke of York levied an army, fought a battle near St Albans, and took the king prisoner; but treated him with lenity, and was again appointed protector. But this did not last long. The civil war broke out, with various success, till it was thus accommodated, at last, by the parliament; that Henry, who was now again a prisoner, should retain the dignity of king, during life, and that

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the duke should succ  d him, to the prejudice of his infant son, then in Scotland with his mother, who after the late battle at Northampton had fled with him to Durham, and from thence to Scotland: but soon returning, she applied to the Northern barons, and employed every argument to obtain their assistance. Her affability, insinuation, and address, talents in which she excelled, aided by caresses and promises, wrought a powerful effect on all who approached her. The admiration of her great qualities was succeeded by compassion towards her helpless situation. The nobility of that quarter entered warmly into her cause; and she soon found herself at the head of an army of twenty thousand men, collected with a celerity which was neither expected by her friends, nor apprehended by her enemies.

In the mean time, the duke of York hastened northward with a body of five thousand men to suppress, as he imagined, the beginnings of insurrection. He met the queen near Wakefield; and, though he found himself so much outnumbered, his pride would not permit him to flee before a woman. He gave battle, was killed in the action; and his body being found among the slain, his head was cut off by Margaret's orders, and fixed on the gates of York, with a paper crown upon it, in derision of his pretended title.

Immediately after this important victory, Margaret marched towards London, where the earl of Warwick was left with the command of the Yorkists. On the approach of the Lancastrians, that nobleman led out his army, reinforced by a strong body of Londoners, and gave battle to the queen at St Alban's, 1461. Margaret was again victorious; she had the pleasure of seeing the formidable Warwick flee before her,

her, and of rescuing the king her husband from captivity.

But her triumph, though glorious, was of short duration, and not altogether complete. Warwick was still in possession of London, on which she made an unsuccessful attempt; and Edward, eldest son of the late duke of York, having gained an advantage over the Lancastrians at Mortimer's Cross, near Hereford, advanced upon her from the other side, and was soon in a condition to give her battle with superior forces. She was sensible of her danger in such a situation, and retreated with her army to the north; while Edward entered the capital amidst the acclamations of the citizens, where he was soon proclaimed king, under the title of Edward IV.

Young Edward, now in his twentieth year, was of a temper well fitted to make his way in these times of war and havock. He was not only bold, active, and enterprizing, but his hardness of heart rendered him impregnable to all those movements of compassion, which might relax his vigour in the prosecution of the most bloody designs against his enemies. Hence the scaffold, as well as the field, during his reign, incessantly smoked with the noblest blood in England. The animosity between the two families was become implacable, and the nation, divided in its affections, took different party symbols. The adherents of the house of Lancaster chose, as their mark of distinction, the *red rose*; those of York assumed the *white*: and these civil wars were thus known all over Europe by the name of the "*Quarrel between the Two Roses*."

Queen Margaret, as I have observed, had retired to the north. There great multitudes flocked to her

her standard; and she was able, in a few weeks, to assemble an army of sixty thousand men. Edward and the earl of Warwick hastened with forty thousand, to check her progress. The two armies met at Towton; and, after an obstinate conflict, the battle terminated in a total victory on the side of the Yorkists. Edward would give no quarter, and the routed army was pursued as far as Tadcaster, with great bloodshed and confusion. Above thirty-six thousand men are said to have fallen in the battle and pursuit. Henry and Margaret had remained at York during the action; but learning the defeat of their army, fled with great precipitation into Scotland. The queen of England however found there a people little less divided by faction than those she had left. Their king being a minor, and the regency disputed by two opposite parties. They agreed however to assist them, on her offering to deliver up to them the important fortress of Berwick, and to contract her son to a sister of their king. The dauntless Margaret, stimulated by natural ambition with her northern auxiliaries, and the succours from France, ventured once more to take the field, and make an inroad into England. But she was able to penetrate no farther than Hexham. There she was attacked by lord Montacute, brother to the earl of Warwick, and warden of the marches, who totally routed her motley army, and all who were spared in the field suffered on the scaffold.

The fate of this unfortunate heroine, after this overthrow, was equally singular and affecting. She fled with her son into a forest, where she endeavoured to conceal herself; but was beset during the darkness of the night by robbers, who despoiled her
of

of her jewels, and treated her with the utmost indignity. She made her escape, however, while they were quarrelling about the booty; and wandered some time with her son in the most unfrequented thickets, spent with hunger and fatigue, and ready to sink beneath the load of terror and affliction. In this wretched condition she was met by a robber, with his sword naked in his hand; and, seeing no means of escape, suddenly embraced the bold resolution of trusting entirely to his faith and generosity. “Approach, my friend!”—cried she, presenting to him the young prince!—“to you I commit the safety of your king’s son.” Struck with the singularity of the event, and charmed with the confidence reposed in him, the robber became her protector. By his favour she dwelt concealed in the forest, till she found an opportunity to make her escape into Flanders, whence she passed to her father in France, and lived several years in privacy and retirement. Henry was less fortunate. He lay concealed during twelve months in Lancashire; but was at last detected, delivered up to Edward, and thrown into the Tower, 1465.

In 1470, however, Warwick had been sent to France to negotiate a marriage between Edward IV, and Bona of Savoy; but Edward had, in his absence, given his people an English queen. This the earl resented; and though Edward knew he had been ill used, he was too proud to make an apology; and Warwick, in revenge, drew over the duke of Clarence to his party, by marrying him to his eldest daughter, coheirress of his immense fortune, besides many other discontented lords. Finding his own name insufficient, and being chased to France, Warwick entered into a league

league with queen Margaret, formerly his inveterate enemy.

On his return to England, he was joined by the whole of the Lancastrians. Both parties prepared for a general decision by arms; and a decisive action was every moment expected, when Edward, finding himself betrayed by the marquis of Montague, and suspicious of his other commanders, suddenly abandoned his army and fled to Holland. Henry VI. was taken from his confinement in the Tower, and placed once more upon the English throne; and a parliament, called under the influence of Warwick, declared Edward IV. an usurper.

But so fugitive a thing is public favour, that Warwick was no sooner at the helm of government than his popularity began to decline, though he does not appear to have done any thing to deserve it. The young king was emboldened to return; and though he brought with him but two thousand men, he soon found himself in a condition to obey the call. The city of London opened its gates to Edward; who thus became at once master of his capital and of the person of his rival Henry, doomed to be the perpetual sport of fortune. The arrival of Margaret, whose presence would have been of infinite service to her party, was every day expected. In the mean time the duke of Clarence deserted to the king, and the two parties came to a general engagement. The battle was fought with great obstinacy, and uncommon valour on both sides; but an accident threw at last the ballance on that of the Yorkists. Edward's cognisance was a sun; Warwick's, a star with rays; and the mistiness of the morning rendering it difficult to distin-

distinguish them, a body of the Lancastrians were attacked by their friends, and driven off the field. Warwick did all that experience, conduct, or valour, could suggest to retrieve the mistake, but in vain. He had engaged on foot that day, contrary to his usual practice, in order to shew his troops, that he was resolved to share every danger with them; and now, sensible that all was lost, unless a reverse of fortune could be wrought by some extraordinary effort, he rushed into the thickest of the engagement, and fell, covered with a multitude of wounds. His brother, underwent the same fate; and as Edward had issued orders to give no quarter, a great and undistinguishing slaughter was made in the pursuit.

Queen Margaret, and her son prince Edward, now about eighteen years of age, landed from France the same day on which that decisive battle was fought. She had hitherto sustained the shocks of fortune with surprizing fortitude; but when she received intelligence of her husband's captivity, and of the defeat and death of the earl of Warwick, her courage failed her, and she took sanctuary in the abbey of Beaulieu, in Hampshire.

Encouraged, however, by the appearance of Tudor, earl of Pembroke, and several other noblemen, who exhorted her still to hope for success, she resumed her former spirit, and determined to assert to the last her son's claim to the crown of England. Putting herself once more at the head of the army, which increased in every day's march, she advanced through the counties of Devon, Somerset and Gloucester. But the ardent and expeditious Edward overtook her at Tewkesbury, on the banks of the Severn, where the Lancastrians were totally routed and dispersed. Margaret and her

son were taken prisoners, and brought to the king, who asked the prince, in an imperious tone, How he dared to invade his dominions? "I came hither," replied the undaunted youth, more mindful of his high birth than his present fortune, "to revenge my father's wrongs, and rescue my just inheritance out of your hands." Incensed at his freedom, instead of admiring the boldness of his spirit, the ungenerous Edward barbarously struck him on the face with his gauntlet; and the dukes of Clarence and Gloucester, Lord Hastings, and Sir Thomas Gray, taking this blow as a signal for farther violence, hurried him aside, and instantly dispatched him with their daggers. Margaret was thrown into the Tower, where her husband had just expired: whether by a natural or violent death is uncertain, though it is generally believed the duke of Gloucester killed him with his own hands.

The hopes of the house of Lancaster were thus extinguished by the death of every legitimate prince of that family. Edward, who had no longer any enemy that could give him anxiety or alarm, was encouraged once more to indulge himself in pleasure and amusement; but he was not deaf to the calls of ambition, and planned an invasion of France. He passed over in 1475, to Calais, with a formidable army; but Lewis proposed an accommodation by no means honourable to France, except in one article, which was a stipulation for the life of Margaret, who was still detained in custody by Edward. Lewis paid fifty thousand crowns for her ransom; and this princess, who, in active scenes of life, had experienced so remarkably the vicissitudes of fortune, passed the remainder of her days in privacy. The situations into which she was thrown in a manner unsexed her; as she had the duties and hardships

hardships of a man to encounter, she partook of the same character, and was as much tainted with ferocity, as endowed with the courage of the age in which she lived; though the pictures which remain of her shew a countenance at once mild and dignified.

She died 1481, as is supposed of grief for the misfortunes of a husband and son she had so faithfully served, having in person fought twelve battles.

Modern Europe. &c.

MARGARET, (DAUPHINESS OF FRANCE), *eldest Daughter of James I. of Scotland,*

WAS contracted, in 1428, at the age of eight, to the Dauphin, afterwards Lewis IX, and the marriage was celebrated eight years after, at Tours. She was a princess of merit, and particularly attached to learning and the learned.—It is said that Alain Chartier, one of the best poets and orators of his time, was the ugliest man in France; and that Margaret, passing with some of her ladies through a hall where he lay asleep, approached and kissed him, which surprised the ladies, who reproached her with having bestowed that honour upon a man who, in their opinion, so little deserved it. “I have not kissed him,” said she, “but the lips which have spoken so many beautiful things.”

Margaret had not been beloved by her husband; but, sensible of her worth, he shed many tears on losing her in 1444. Her death is said to have been occasioned by her grief at calumnious reports which attacked her virtue.

MARGARET DE VALOIS, (QUEEN OF NAVARRE), *Sister of Francis I, and Daughter of Charles of Orleans and Louisa of Savoy; born 1492; married, 1509, to Charles, last Duke of Alençon, first Prince of the Blood and Constable of France, who died at Lyons, after the Battle of Pavia, 1525; she died 1549, aged 57.*

AFFLICTED at the death of her husband, and no less at the captivity of a brother she tenderly loved, Margaret went to Madrid, on purpose to comfort the latter in his sickness, and found him in so pitiable a state, that if she had not gone, as he afterwards declared, he should have died; and by her firmness, she engaged Charles V. to abate the rigour of his confinement; but knowing his constitution, and the turn of his mind, better than all his physicians, she paid such unremitting attention to both, that he soon recovered. On his return to France, he gave her the most evident proofs of his gratitude and affection; and married her, in 1527, to Henry d'Albret, king of Navarre and prince of Bearn, by whom she had the celebrated Jane d'Albret.

By her marriage articles she had more power and privileges than queens generally have; and in concert with her husband, devoted all her cares to the benefit of her subjects: and they had the pleasure of seeing their wisdom and patriotism rewarded, by the flourishing state of the kingdom. By the encouragement she lent to free religious discussion, and the favour she shewed the reformers, she laid the ground work of the protestant religion in that kingdom. It has been said by the catholics, that she died in their communion; and they affirmed
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that the countenance she had all along shewn to the protestants, was merely from a spirit of toleration and compassion for their sufferings. This, however, is not probable. She was a constant reader of the Bible, and had a fancy to have plays taken from different parts of it, and acted before herself and the king, in which the follies and vices of the Romish ecclesiastics were severely handled: and throughout her works, she takes every opportunity of commenting upon them. She at one time interceded so powerfully with her brother, who was tenderly attached to her, and painted so eloquently the sufferings of the Huguenots, that he appeared inclined to favour them, till some zealots so angered him by libels, that he began to persecute them, and Margaret could no more interfere in their favour. She had written a book, called *The Mirror of sinful Souls*, which was censured by the Sorbonne, who, however, were induced to deny their award, at the interference of Francis, who, though in some instances he felt disposed to blame her, would let no indignities be offered to his beloved sister, without resenting them. The constable Montmorenci told him once, that if he would exterminate heretics, he must begin with his own family, thereby alluding to Margaret: but he answered, he would hear no more on that head; saying, she loved him too well to disbelieve what he believed, or to embrace a religion prejudicial to the state. Yet he could not be ignorant of her sentiments, which she took no great pains to conceal, openly hearing and protecting the popular ministers of the reformed. In this she suffered some vexations from her husband, who being told that they said prayers, and gave some

instructions in the queen's chamber, contrary to the doctrine and practice of his ancestors, went in with a design to punish the minister; but finding he had escaped, his anger fell on his spouse, to whom he gave a blow, saying, "Madam, you want to be too wise!" and immediately acquainted her brother with what he had done; but Francis, ever mindful of his dignity and affection, severely reprimanded him for it.

This princess disliked to hear the name of death. She used often to say to those who discoursed of it, and the happiness which ensues, "all this is true; but we continue so long before we enjoy it."

Her curiosity in attending the last moments of a dying person is remarkable. It was one of her maids of honour. Some of her ladies asked her, why she looked on her with so much attention? She answered, that having often heard many learned men assert, that the soul left the body the moment it died, she was willing to see if there came from it any perceptible noise, or sound, but that she could perceive nothing. She gave a reason of her expectation, which was, that having asked the same learned men why a swan sings before it dies, they answered, that it was on account of the spirits, which were labouring to get out through its long neck. Thus, she said, she had also a mind to see that soul or spirit go out, or hear the noise or sound it made at leaving the body. She added, that if she were not well settled in the faith, she should not know what to think of its separation from the body; but that she would believe what her God and her church commanded her without any further inquiry.

Her *Heptameron* was a collection of stories in the manner of Boccacio, composed in a flowing and beautiful

tiful stile, and evidently intended to forward the interests of virtue, though written in a stile too free to be at present allowable, although perhaps not considered so at the time. They display great wit and fertility of invention, and some are founded on real life. She used to write them at her ease, in her carriage. They were published at Amsterdam, 1692, 2 vols. 8vo. John de la Haye, her valet de chambre, collected her poems, and published them, 1547, 8vo. with this title: *Les Marguerites de la Marguerite des Princesses, très illustre Reine de Navarre*. They consist of four mysteries or pious dramas, and two farces; *le Triomphe de L'Agneau*, a poem; Thirty Spiritual Songs; and *Le Miroir de l'Ame Pécheresse*; with other pieces on various subjects, which display much wit and invention.

Margaret was eloquent and beautiful, and had great political knowledge. During the imprisonment of her brother, she assisted Louisa, her mother, in the regency—and was of great use in conciliating the nobility, and maintaining the peace of the kingdom, from her affability and address. She was very charitable, and “*ne dédaignant personne*” thought nobody beneath her attention.

Mrs. Thicknesse. L'Advocat. F. C. &c.

MARGARET of FRANCE, QUEEN of NAVARRE
(who must be distinguished from the preceding)
 Daughter of Henry II. King of France, and Catherine de Medicis; born 1552, died 1615, aged 63.

BRANTOME says, if ever there was a perfect beauty born, it was the queen of Navarre, who eclipsed
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the women who were counted most charming in her absence. Others say, that she had more grace and youthfulness about her than beauty; that she walked well, and was the best dancer in Europe. She gave early proofs of genius, and was a brilliant assemblage of talents and faults, of virtues and vices. This may be naturally attributed to her education in the most polished and at the same time the most corrupt court in Europe. Margaret was demanded in marriage both by the emperor and the king of Portugal; but, in 1572, was married to Henry, prince of Bearn, afterwards Henry IV, of France. Nothing could equal the magnificence of this marriage, which was succeeded by the horrors of St. Bartholemew. Margaret, though far from strict in her way of life, was strongly attached to the Catholic religion; but she was not intrusted with the secrets of that horrible day. She was alarmed with suspicions, which her mother would not suffer to be explained to her, and terrified by a gentleman, covered with wounds and followed by four archers, bursting into her room, and clinging round her. Scarce could her prayers obtain his life; and, after fainting with terror by the way, at the feet of her mother, her tears obtained grace for two of her husband's suite. Henry escaped the fate prepared for him, and Margaret refused to suffer the marriage to be cancelled.

In 1573, when the Polish ambassadors came to elect her brother, the duke of Anjou, king of their country, Margaret, as a daughter of France, received them. The Bishop of Cracow made his harangue in Latin, which she understood, and answered with so much eloquence, that they heard her with astonishment and delight. She accompanied the duke on his way to Poland, as far as Blamont, and during this journey
heard

heard of a plot of her husband and Henry her next brother, who was become duke of Anjou, to avenge the massacre, which she revealed to her mother, on condition that no executions should follow the prevention of the plot. The princes finding their designs discovered, put off the execution to another time; but they were seized, and imprisoned. The death of Charles IX. set them at liberty; but the hopes Margaret entertained of being of more consideration on the accession of Henry III. were disappointed, by means of the queen mother, and Dugast his favourite, who abused her to him as the tie of friendship between the king of Navarre and the duke of Anjou, as also of intrigues with one name *Bidé*; and the brave Bussi d'Amboise, who was, at least, passionately in love with her, and whom she evidently had great esteem for, from the high terms in which she mentions him; with respect to the first, she appears wholly justified.

The king of Navarre, whose heart was continually occupied by new beauties, cared little for the reputation of his wife; yet, when he stole from the court, recommended his interest to her care in a polite letter. She was, however, confined a prisoner in her apartment, her confidants were treated with the greatest severity; but the politic Catherine prevented the king from pushing matters to extremity with her, by whose means she brought about a short peace. Margaret demanded permission to retire to her husband in Guyenne; but Henry III. answered, that he would not permit his sister to live with a heretic. The Catholic league was soon concluded, of which he was declared chief, and an open war commenced against the protestants. Margaret withdrew into the Low Countries, to prepare the people in favour of the duke of Alençon, who meditated the

conquest of them from the Spaniards. There are curious details of this journey in her memoirs. On her return, she stopped at Fere, in Picardy, which belonged to her, where she learnt that, for the sixth time, peace was made in 1577. The duke of Alençon came to Picardy, and was delighted with the pleasures that reigned in the little court of Margaret, compared with the cabal and unpleasantness of that of France. She soon returned to France, where love, religion, and treachery reigned in every political movement, and there lived with Henry at Pau, in Bearn, where religious toleration was, on the part of the Protestants, almost denied her; and Henry shewed her little kindness; yet the care and tenderness with which she nursed him, during his illness, reestablished friendship between them from 1577 to 1580, when the war again broke out. She wished to effect another reconciliation; but was not listened to, and all she could obtain was the neutrality of the town of Nerac, where she resided.

After the war, Henry III. was determined to draw the king of Navarre, and Margaret's favourite brother the duke of Anjou, again to his court, and for this purpose wrote to his sister to come to him. Discontented with the conduct of her husband towards her, she gladly obeyed in 1582; yet so much was her brother irritated at her affection for the duke of Anjou, that he treated her very unkindly. Some time after a courier, whom he had sent to Rome with an important letter, being poignarded by four cavaliers, who took his dispatches from him, he suspected his sister of being concerned in the plot. And publicly reproached her with the irregularity of her conduct; saying every thing that was bitter and taunting. Margaret all the while

while kept a profound silence; but left Paris the next morning, frequently repeating as she went, that there had never been two princesses so unfortunate as herself and the queen of Scots. On the journey she was stopped by an insolent captain of the guards, who obliged her to unmask; it was then the custom for ladies to travel in masks, which were tied to a ribbon round their waist, and hung down when they entered a town. He also interrogated the ladies with her, and took down their answers in writing. Henry IV. when he knew the truth, resented the unworthy treatment she experienced from her brother. He received her at Nerac; but could not dissimulate the disgust her conduct occasioned. She was engaged in new intrigues there, and the breach grew daily wider between them; when, on his being excommunicated, she left him, and went to Agen, then from place to place, and experienced many dangers, difficulties, and much inquietude. Her charms made a conquest of the marquis de Carnillac, who had taken her prisoner; but though he insured her a place of refuge in the castle of Usson, she had daily the misery of seeing her friends cut to pieces in the plains below; and, though the fortress was impregnable, was assailed by famine, forced to sell her jewels, and even then, had it not been for the aid of her sister-in-law, Eleanor of Austria, she must have perished. The duke of Anjou was dead, who would have protected her; and though she might have returned, after the accession of her husband to the throne of France, on condition of consenting to a divorce, she would never do so during the life of Gabrielle d'Estrées. After her death, tired of the retreat she lived in, she herself solicited Clement VIII. to forward it, which he did, and Henry was married

married to Mary de Medicis in 1600. Margaret, in the mean time, made herself serviceable to the king, and in recompence was permitted to return to court in 1605, after an absence of 22 years. She even assisted at the coronation of Mary de Medicis, where etiquette obliged her to walk after Henry's sister. She consoled herself by pleasure, for the loss of honours; and though Henry IV. begged her to be more prudent, and not to turn night into day and day into night, she paid little attention to his advice. She passed her last years in devotion, study, and pleasure. She gave the tenth of her revenues to the poor; but did not pay her debts. The memoirs which she has left, which finish at the time when she reappeared at court, prove the elegant facility of her pen, and the curious preserve pieces of her poetry, which equal those of the best poets of her time. She was particularly fond of the company of learned men, especially of the famous Brantôme, who has numbered her amongst his *Illustrious Women*. "Margaret," said Catherine de Medicis, "is a living proof of the injustice of the Salic law; with her talents she might have equalled the greatest kings."

"The last of the house of Valois, she," says Mezeray, "inherited their spirit; she never gave to any one, without apologizing for the smallness of the gift. She was the refuge of men of letters, had always some of them at her table, and improved so much by their conversation, that she spoke and wrote better than any woman of her time."

She appears to have been good-natured and benevolent; and wanting in fidelity, not in complaisance, to her husband, as, at his request, she got up one morning to attend one of his mistresses who was ill.

MARGARET OF AUSTRIA, *Duchess of Savoy, only Daughter of the Emperor Maximilian I; born 1480.*

AFTER the death of her mother, was sent to France, to be educated by Charlotte of Savoy, wife of Louis I. where she was contracted to the dauphin, afterwards Charles VIII.; but this prince choosing the more advantageous match of Anne of Brittany, whom he married in 1491, Margaret was sent back to her father, and given in marriage to John, infant of Spain, 1497. It is said, while she was on her voyage to espouse this prince, a violent storm arose, during which she made the following epitaph upon herself.

C'y git Margot, la gente Demoiselle,
Qu'eut deux Maris, et si mourut Pucelle.

She had the presence of mind to fasten these lines and her jewels round her arm, with a waxed cloth. The storm, however, abated; and, after being obliged to lie by a little time in England, she reached Galicia, and the marriage was celebrated at Burgos soon after. But her husband did not live long; and Margaret was, in 1501, married to Philip *the handsome*, duke of Savoy, who died 1504, upon which she retired into Germany, to the court of her father, who made her governess of the Low Countries for his grandson, Charles of Austria. Here she acquired great reputation, by her wise and prudent conduct. She was averse to the doctrines of Luther; and died 1550, aged 30. She left many works, as well in prose as in French verse; amongst others, An account of her life and misfortunes. She was buried in the beautiful church she had built at Bamgen-bresse, where is her motto, *fortune, infortune, fors une*; which the curious explain differently. Henry Cornelius Agrippa,

Agrippa, her counsellor and historiographer, composed her funeral oration, and John le Maine wrote in honour of her, *la Couronne Margaritique*. Lyons, 1549.

F. C. &c.

MARGARET OF FRANCE, *Duchess of Berri and Savoy, Daughter of Francis I.; born 1523;*

LEARNED Greek and Latin, professed herself a patroness of the sciences and learned men, and, after her father's death, gained a great name by her beauty, piety, learning, and amiable qualities. She married Emanuel Philibert, duke of Savoy, 1559, and died of a pleurisy 1574, aged 51, occasioned, as it was thought, by her anxiety to perform properly the offices of hospitality to Henry III. and his suite, on his return from Poland. The most illustrious of the literati contended who should praise her best, and her subjects called her the *Mother of her People*.

L'Advocat's Dict.

MARIAMNE, (*Wife of Herod the Great*); and her Mother, ALEXANDRA, *Daughter of Hyrcanus, High Priest of Jerusalem, Wife of Alexander, the Son of Aristobulus, second King of the Asmonean Line, and Mother of two Children, Aristobulus, and Mariamne the Wife of Herod.*

HER husband having been beheaded by the command of Pompey, we hear nothing of Alexandra till the time of Herod being betrothed to her daughter, when it appeared that he put much confidence in her wisdom, and in many instances was guided by her judgement and penetration. Herod had been made tetrarch by Mark Antony, and when

when the Parthians had joined Antigonus the younger son of the last king, who had also assumed that title, Herod went to Rome with his family, intending to ask the sovereign authority for his wife's brother, who was of the royal blood; but, through the friendship of Antony, it was bestowed upon himself, who was descended from the Idumean proselytes, and not from the original stock of the Jews. As soon as he was settled in his kingdom, he married Mariamne, yet very young and of great beauty. The Parthians had taken Hyrcanus prisoner, and to disqualify him from officiating again as high-priest, cut off his ears; and, though he afterwards returned from captivity, it was needful another should be elected; but Herod, jealous of the claims of the family, appointed an absent person to this high dignity. Alexandra, seeing her son again disappointed of the honours his birth seemed to promise him, laid it much to heart, and wrote a letter to Cleopatra, desiring her intercession with Antony, that this new appointment might be set aside. Cleopatra seemed warmly to espouse her interest; Antony, who had been won by Herod's gifts, was slow in granting her requests; but the fear of what it might lead to, and the entreaties of Mariamne, at length persuaded Herod to a seeming compliance. He knew, if once made high-priest, this young man, whose beauty and dignified appearance won much upon the people, could not leave the country. He therefore displaced the one he had appointed, to invest Aristobulus with that office; and Alexandra made the best excuse she could for the steps she had taken, though she was not without her suspicions that all was not right. Jealous of her attempting new innovations,

tions, Herod commanded that she should dwell in the palace, and meddle no more with public affairs. He likewise placed spies around her, till she became impatient under these hardships, began thoroughly to hate him, wishing rather to undergo any thing than be deprived of the liberty of speech, and, under the notion of an honorary guard, to live always in a state of terror and constraint. She, therefore, again applied to Cleopatra, who advised her to flee with her son into Egypt. In order to do this, Alexandra had two coffins made, and directed some of her servants to carry them away in the night-time out of the city, in order to convey them to Egypt. But through the indiscretion of one of them the plan came to the ears of Herod, who suffered her to proceed in the plan that he might catch her in it. Yet still, fearful of the hatred of Cleopatra, who wished for his dominions, he dared not punish her as he desired, but made a show of generosity, and soon after contrived to have her son drowned, as it were by accident.—But Alexandra was not to be so deceived, her despair was so violent that the hopes of revenge alone prevented her laying violent hands upon herself, and in this hope she smothered the dark suspicions of her bosom. A magnificent funeral was prepared by Herod, who affected the most poignant sorrow; and when he saw the lifeless body of this beautiful young person, scarce eighteen years of age, he might in reality feel something like remorse. Alexandra again wrote to Cleopatra, who now urged Antony so warmly to revenge this young man's murder, that he summoned Herod to appear before him, and answer to the charge. Fancying that Antony was in love with his wife, from
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the reports he had formerly heard of her beauty, he left the kingdom in the care of his uncle Joseph; desiring, if any thing fatal happened to him, that he would immediately put her to death. This imprudent man, whose situation made him frequently about the queen, often talked to her of the great love her husband bore towards her, and when she or Alexandra turned his discourse into raillery, he mentioned the charge he had received, as a proof that he could not bear even the separation of death. They, however, thought very differently of the matter. The mother and sister of Herod hated Mariamne, who, proud of the superiority of her own birth, treated them frequently with disdain; so that on his return from Antony, whom he had rendered as usual favourable by presents, they accused her of improper familiarity with his uncle. The defence of Mariamne, however, pacified the king, and he made an apology for having believed aught against her, acknowledged her merit, and they were completely reconciled; till, proceeding in assurances of his confidence and love, Mariamne, recollecting this order, reproached Herod with it, who now, confirmed that the accusations were true or his uncle would not have betrayed him, in the agony of his mind, was near destroying her; but immediately caused Joseph to be slain, and her mother to be kept in close confinement, accusing her as the cause of all. His mind, however, afterwards became tranquil, and love was re-established between them—till fresh injuries roused a greater degree of hatred against him, in her bosom. Her grandfather, Hyrcanus, out of his partiality to his native country, wished to return there, especially

cially since the marriage of Herod insured, as he supposed, his protection. He, therefore, came to Jerusalem; and being of a mild nature, interfered not in the government; but Herod, suspecting that Alexandra would urge him to recover his right, accused him of having invited over the Arabians by letter for that purpose, and caused him to be put to death. As soon as this was done, he prepared himself to attend the award of Augustus, who had lately defeated Antony at Actium. Having little to expect from his friendship, and fearing Alexandra might cause an insurrection in the kingdom, he caused her and his wife to be separated from the rest of his family, and placed under the care of his treasurer and Sohemus, at Alexandrium, a strong fortress.—They had always been faithful to him; and he commanded them, if any mischief should befall him, to destroy them both—and, as far as they were able, secure the kingdom to his sons and brother.

Remembering his former behaviour, Mariamne and her mother were suspicious in the present instance; and by paying all possible court to their keepers, especially Sohemus, by presents and promises, they prevailed upon him to reveal the secret of his commands—as there was little probability of Herod's safe return. Contrary, however, to expectation, he made his peace with Cæsar, and returned triumphant; but Mariamne, feeling no security for her life while united to him, and the highest disdain of that love she considered as so hypocritical, did not attempt to conceal her resentment, although she did not declare the cause. She appeared rather distressed than rejoiced at his good fortune, and returned his caresses with a deep groan.

groan. Furious at the hatred he saw she bore towards him, he would instantly have commanded her to be put to death, but that he felt it would be a heavier punishment on himself than on her. Thus he sometimes upbraided, sometimes reconciled himself to her; while his mother and sister were perpetually calumniating her, and telling him falsehoods to excite his jealousy and dislike; but his love still conquered his resentment, for more than a year after a second visit to Augustus. But Mariamne, proud of her birth, indignant at her wrongs, considered not the power of her tyrant, nor the effects of the malice provoked by her pride in his kindred. She once reproached him for the murder of her brother and her grandfather; and his sister, Salome, took this opportunity of sending in his cup-bearer to accuse Mariamne of asking his assistance to give the king a love potion, by which, he insinuated, she meant to poison him. Her favourite domestics were put to the torture, who only said the hatred of their mistress for the king was occasioned by something Sohemus had told her. Herod gave orders that Sohemus should be seized and slain immediately; but allowed his wife to take her trial. The judges, understanding his will, passed sentence of death upon her; but were of opinion that this sentence should not be executed immediately, and that she should be put to prison; but Salome and her party, having once caught their enemy in the toils, advised the king to put her to death, lest the populace should interfere.

Accordingly the beautiful and high spirited Mariamne, of whom and of her brother the heathens had formerly observed, they appeared more like the children of gods than men, was led to execution. Her mother, who was accounted the shrewdest woman in

the world, and who appears to have had that low cunning which stoops to all expedients for interest, fearful for her own life, changed her behaviour, and reproached her as she went. The hapless Mariamne made no answer, nor discovered any discomposure at her behaviour, though ashamed of the dissimulation she shewed. Wearied out with the world, in which she found none to respect or feel affection for, she met her fate with unshaken resolution, and without even changing colour. After her death, despair and madness seized the king; but the remains of his former love did not save her children, who, when they came to men's estate, fell a sacrifice as their mother had done, to their own indiscretion, and the malice and calumnies of their enemies.

Alexandra did not survive her daughter. Hearing of the bad state of Herod's health, she tampered with the governors of the fortified places round Jerusalem, to deliver them into her hands; was betrayed to Herod, and slain by his order.

Antiquities of the Jews.

MARULLA, a young Girl of the Island of Lemnos.

THE Turks having attacked the capital of this island, in the time of Mahomet II. it was defended with great vigour; even the women assisting in defence of their honours and their religion. Wounded by the stroke that had killed her father, she descended from the wall, and rushed amidst the enemy with all the vigour that enthusiasm and despair inspires; she was seconded by the garrison, who caught her fury; and the next day, when the Venetian general arrived, with his fleet, to succour the people, instead of a battle

tle he beheld a triumph. The people in their best apparel, and the magistrates in their robes of ceremony, went to meet him, conducting their fair deliverer. Charmed with her heroism, the general commanded each soldier to make her a present; promised that she should be adopted by the republic; and offered her in marriage, any of the captains who accompanied him. Marulla replied, It was not by chance that she could chuse a husband; for the virtues of a camp would not make a good master of a family, and that the hazard would be too great.

F. C.

MASHAM, (DAMARIS, LADY) *born at Cambridge, 1658; Daughter of Ralph Cudworth, D. D. an eminent Divine, Master of Christ's College, Hebrew Professor in the University of Cambridge, and Author of The Intellectual System.*

Soon perceiving the bent of her genius, he took such particular care of her education, that in the early part of her life she was distinguished for uncommon learning and piety.

She applied herself with great diligence to the study of divinity and philosophy, and had great assistance from Mr. Locke, who lived in the family many years, and at length died at her house at Oates, in Essex, in the year 1704. She was second wife to Sir Francis Masham, of that place, Bart. by whom she had an only son, for whom she had such a tender regard, that she applied all her natural and acquired endowments in the care of his education.

Soon after she was married, the celebrated Mr. Norris addressed to her, by way of letter, his *Re-*

flections upon the Conduct of Human Life, with Reference to the Study of Learning and Knowledge: London, 1689, 12mo. This began a friendship between them; which seemed very likely to be lasting: but it appears to have been in a great measure dissolved by the incongruity of his religious sentiments with Mr. Locke. Not long after this, lady Masham, (probably under the inspection of Mr. Locke,) wrote and published without her name, *A Discourse concerning the Love of God: 1691, 12mo.* which was afterwards translated into French by Mr. Coste, 1705. She begins with observing, "that whatever reproaches have been made by the Romanists on the one hand, of the want of books of devotion in the church of England, or by the dissenters on the other, of a dead and lifeless way of preaching, it may be affirmed, that there cannot, any where, be found so good a collection of discourses upon moral subjects as might be made from English sermons, and other treatises of that nature. She then animadverts upon those who undervalue morality, or others who strain the duties of it to an unwarrantable pitch; and afterwards, examines Mr. Norris's scheme in his *Practical Discourses*, and other treatises; wherein he asserts, "that mankind are obliged, as their duty, to love with desire nothing but God; every degree of love of any creature whatsoever being sinful;" which assertion he defends upon this ground, borrowed from Malebranche, "that God, not the creature, is the immediate efficient cause of our sensations; for whatever gives us pleasure has a right to our love." This hypothesis is considered with accuracy and judgment by Lady Masham,

Masham, and the bad consequences, as she thought, represented in a strong light.

Whether Mr. Norris ever attempted to support what he had advanced, is uncertain; but Mrs. Astell, who had written on the same subject, still continued to maintain the same opinion, and replied to Lady Masham and Mr. Locke, in her book of *The Christian Religion, as professed by a Daughter of the Church of England*, to which we refer our reader; from perusal of which, and Lady Masham's treatise, he will, probably, conceive a very high opinion of the understanding and piety of each.

About the year 1700, Lady Masham published "*Occasional Thoughts in reference to a Virtuous or Christian Life*. 12mo. She complains in it much of the great neglect of religious duties, for want of being better acquainted with the fundamentals of religion. She reprehends persons of quality for permitting their daughters to pass that part of their youth, in which the mind is most ductile and susceptible of good impressions, in a ridiculous circle of diversions, which is generally thought the proper business of young ladies; and which so engrosses them, that they can find no spare hours to improve themselves as reasonable creatures; or as is requisite to their discharging well their present or future duties; and they so little know why they should look upon the Scriptures as the word of God, that too often they are easily persuaded out of the reverence due to them as being so; insomuch, that the generality are so entirely ignorant of the articles of their faith, that they can give no other reason for believing them, than that they are commanded to do so!

She says further, there is not a commoner complaint in every county, than of the want of gentlemen qualified

qualified for the service of their country, viz. to be executors of the law, and law-makers; both of which it belonging to this rank of Englishmen to be, some insight into the law which they are to see executed, and into that constitution which they are to support, cannot but be necessary to their well discharging their trusts: nor will this knowledge be sufficiently serviceable to the ends herein proposed, without some acquaintance likewise with history, politics, and morals.

“ But, whether we farther look upon such men as having immortal souls, which shall be for ever happy or miserable as they comply with the terms which their Maker has proposed to them; or whether we regard them as protestants, whose birthright it is, not blindly to believe, but to examine their religion; or consider them only as men, whose ample fortunes allow them leisure for so important a study; they are, without doubt, obliged to understand the religion they profess.

“ It is an undeniable truth, that a lady who is able to give an account of her faith, and to defend her religion against the attacks of the cavilling wits of the age, or the abuses of the obtruders of vain opinions; who is capable of instructing her children in the reasonableness of the Christian religion, and of laying in them the foundations of a solid virtue; that a lady, I say, no more knowing than this demands, can hardly escape being called learned by the men of our days; and, in consequence thereof, becoming a subject of ridicule to one part of them, and of aversion to the other; with but a few exceptions of some virtuous and rational persons. And is not the incurring the general dislike, one of the strongest discouragements that we can have to any thing?”

As Lady Masham herself owed much to the care
of

of Mr. Locke for her acquired endowments, and skill in arithmetic, geography, chronology, history, philosophy, and divinity; as a testimony of her gratitude to his memory, she drew up the account of him printed in the *Great Historical Dictionary*, and there said to be written by a lady.

This appears to have been the last of her performances; and she survived the person who was the subject of it only three years, dying, 1708. She was buried in the middle aisle of the Abbey church, at Bath.

Female Worthies.

MASQUIERE (FRANCES),

A French poetess, who died 1728.

MATILDA, *Daughter of Baldwin de Lille, Count of Flanders, and Wife of William of Normandy, afterwards King of England, her Relation.*

THE pope granted them absolution for this marriage, on condition of building two chapels, one for men, the other for women. The first was erected by the Conqueror, and the last by Matilda. She is distinguished for working the famous tapestry in wool, portraying the descent upon England. The leaders have their different armorial bearings; and the vessels also are parti-coloured. It was given by William to his brother Eudes, bishop of Bayeux, where it is yet preserved in the cathedral. There is a learned explanation of it given by Mr. Lancelot, in the 8th vol. of *Mémoires de l'Académie des Inscriptions*. Her kindness and generosity to her eldest son Robert, in some degree recompensed hi
for

for the coldness of a father who did not love him, and who was not a kind husband.

On the wall of the chapel at Caen (the one erected by William) figures of himself and Matilda were painted. In 1700 the chapel was pulled down, but they had previously been engraved by Montfaucon.

Letters on Norman Tiles, by Henniker Major, Esq.

MATILDA, *Countess of Tuscany, Daughter of Boniface, Marquis of Mantua; died 1115, aged 76.*

HER mother Beatrice, sister of the emperor Henry III, after the death of Boniface, married Gazelo, duke of Lorrain, and contracted Matilda to Godfrey Gibbosus, or Crookback, duke of Spoleto and Tuscany, Gazelo's son by a former marriage. This formidable alliance, made without his consent, alarmed Henry, who marched into Italy, and made his sister prisoner; hoping that, by carrying her into Germany, he might dissolve the agreement, which gave him too powerful a rival in the government of that country. He died 1056, soon after his return; and the young Matilda's husband, in 1076. She was afterwards married to Azo V, marquis of Ferrara, from whom she was divorced by the pope, as she was 'also from her third husband Welfo V, duke of Bavaria, whom she married 1088. She parted from him 1095.

Dispossessed of her estates by the Emperor Henry III, she joined the popes, recovered all her own dominions, and dismembered from the empire many goodly territories, which, at her death, having had no issue, she gave for ever in fee to the see of Rome; which

which the emperors disputed or resigned, as suited their and their adversaries purposes.

The famous pontiff, Gregory VIIth, whom we must now consider as ambitious, insolent, and tyrannical, but who certainly seems to have acted under a mistaking sense of duty, and who undoubtedly was one of the greatest men of his age, as, bating his zeal for the aggrandizement of the popedom, he is allowed to be just and upright, was the friend of Matilda, who looked upon him as the first of mankind. When in 1077 the emperor Henry IV. was reduced to the character of a suppliant, the pope being at Canosa, in the Appenines, a fortress belonging to the countess, he remained three days in the outer court fasting and praying, before he could be admitted to make his submissions to the haughty pontiff, and then only obtained the favour at the intercession of Matilda and her companions. Her attachment to Gregory, and her hatred against the Germans (one of whom she considered as her protector, and the other as her natural enemy) was so great, that she defended him with great heroism, and on her death made over all her estates to the apostolic see; consisting of a great part of Tuscany, Mantua, Parma, Reggio, Placentia, Ferrara, Verona, and almost the whole of what was called the Patrimony of St. Peter, from Viterbo to Orvieto, together with part of Umbria, Spoleto, and the marquise of Ancona.

Fortune, however, changing, the emperor deposed the pope, who died 1085. His last words, which showed that he was deceived in his own character, as well as his adherents, were: "I have loved justice, and hated iniquity, therefore I die in exile."

Matilda, who looked on the emperor with aggregated detes-

detestation, is said, in conjunction with pope Urban II, to have seduced his son Conrad into rebellion against his father; and, accordingly, the young prince assumed the title of king of Italy; but he soon died.

Modern History.

MATILDA (THE EMPRESS).

ON the death of Prince William, only son of Henry I, king of England, the latter had no legitimate issue, except his daughter Matilda, whom he had betrothed when a child to the emperor Henry V. who also dying without children, the king gave his daughter to Geoffry Plantagenet, eldest son of the count of Anjou, and endeavoured to secure her succession, by having her recognized heiress to all his dominions; and obliged the barons, both of Normandy and England, to swear fealty to her. After six years, A. D. 1133, she was delivered of a son, and the king, farther to ensure the succession, made all the nobility renew the oath of fealty, which they had already sworn to her, to her son.

Matilda was dear to the English, as being descended from their Saxon kings by Matilda of Scotland, her mother; and to the Anglo-Normans, as the grand-daughter of William the conqueror. Dear as this daughter was to Henry, he had hastened to sacrifice her in marriage to Geoffry, to whom she had personal repugnance, as her proud spirit could ill brook the change. The birth of her son was preceded by quarrels and reconciliation between her and Geoffry, who was of a cold and slow nature. She had quitted her husband and followed her father into England. Geoffry wished to make Henry purchase the liberty of his daughter: he demanded either her or Normandy; and Matilda was sent back to him. A year after Henry II. was born, and she had soon two others, Geoffry and William.

The

The joy of this event, and the pleasure of his daughter's company, made Henry take up his residence in Normandy, the education of her children being his only business, where he died 1135, leaving his daughter heiress of all his dominions; and, from the steps which had been taken to secure her inheritance, she had reason to expect to succeed to both. But the aversion of the feudal barons to female succession prevailed over their good faith, and made way for Stephen of Blois, grandson of William the first, by his daughter Adela, who accordingly usurped the sceptre. But her uncle David, king of Scotland, who at first was a competitor, appeared in her defence, 1138, at the head of a considerable army, penetrated as far as Yorkshire, and laid the whole country waste. These barbarous outrages enraged the Northern nobility, who might otherwise have been inclined to join him, and proved fatal to Matilda's cause. The earl of Albemarle, and other powerful nobles, assembled a great army, gave battle to and routed the Scots with great slaughter, and their king narrowly escaped.

Stephen, however, believing his throne secure, engaged in a contest with the clergy; and Matilda, encouraged by the discontents it occasioned, and invited by the malcontents, landed in England, accompanied by Robert, earl of Gloucester, natural son of the late king, and a retinue of one hundred and forty knights. She fixed her residence at Arundel Castle, whose gates were opened to her by Adelais, the queen dowager, now married to William de Albini, earl of Sussex. Her party daily increased; she was joined by several barons: war raged in every quarter of the kingdom, and a grievous famine desolated the land.

But

But in the year 1141, the royal army was defeated, Stephen taken prisoner, and Matilda declared queen; but she abused her good fortune by cruelly loading him with chains in his prison, and when his wife made an offer of renouncing the crown, his leaving the kingdom, or even retiring into a convent, if they exacted it, to recover his liberty, she received her with scorn. She had indeed reason to be diffident of the oath he offered to take, as he had already broken very sacred ones, as well as the ties of gratitude. The bishop of Winchester, who offered himself as guarantee of these promises, indignant at her rigour, turned secretly to his brother; and the inhabitants of London, excited by him, demanded of Matilda the amelioration of the tyrannic laws imposed by the Norman princes. This was far less than they had exacted from Stephen; but the hard despotism of her forefathers was wedded to her heart, and she refused them with firmness. The people gave a cry of indignation, and the bishop of Winchester brought forward Eustace, the son of Stephen, at the head of a party of the revolted. They thought to have surprised her in London, from whence she escaped with difficulty, and where her goods were pillaged, and her name covered with opprobrium by the populace. They pursued her from city to city, and it was only by favour of a thousand disguises, by undergoing a thousand fatigues, that she at last arrived in a place of security. In passing from Devizes to Gloucester, in the middle of a country occupied by her enemies, she was obliged to put herself into a bier, and be conducted by her guards, disguised as priests. During this perilous flight, she was accompanied by the king of Scotland; but her most faithful and valiant defender, Robert, earl of Gloucester, wishing to retard the pursuers, was taken, and every method

prac-

practised to entice him to leave her party; but he remained faithful, and at last was exchanged for Stephen. Matilda did not lose hope, when she had recovered her champion. She tried to persuade her husband to pass the sea to succour her; he, who had more ambition than activity, wished first to confer with the duke of Gloucester, who would not leave England while Matilda was in danger, and perhaps this was what Geoffry wished. But after, by his bravery and good conduct, having a little assured the fate of Matilda, he hastened into Normandy, to shew Plantagenet the necessity of his coming to head the party of his wife; but this indolent prince still alledged excuses, and the earl at last ceased to press it, and only demanded his son, which was granted, and the young Henry from that moment began his career of glory. They found Matilda besieged in the castle of Oxford by Stephen. But whilst they attempted her deliverance by force of arms, they learned she had escaped. Accustomed to disguises and peril, she had imagined a new stratagem, which had succeeded. The river was frozen, the country covered with snow. So rude a season made the assailants relax in their vigilance; Matilda, who had remarked it, went out in the night, dressed in white, with four knights who accompanied her; so that they could not easily be distinguished. She crossed the river, walked to the town of Abingdon, from whence she was transported to Wallingford. She forgot all her perils and fatigues in finding again her brother and her son; but her good fortune became soon again inconstant, and the earl of Gloucester dying, she was obliged to quit England; from whence her son was also recalled by his father.

Henry, with whom all seemed to succeed, at length
came

came over, and reduced Stephen to the necessity of making an agreement, by which he secured the crown during his own life, but left the succession to him. It is pretended that Matilda persuaded Stephen to this treaty, in recalling to his mind, in a private conference, that they were formerly lovers, and that this Henry, whom he persecuted, was his own son. There seems, however, little or no room for this supposition.

The weakness of both parties at last produced a tacit cessation of arms, and the empress Matilda retired into Normandy. But an event soon happened, which threatened the revival of hostilities in England. Prince Henry had reached his sixteenth year, and was anxious to receive the honour of knighthood from his uncle, the king of Scotland. For this purpose he passed through England with a great retinue, and was visited by the most considerable of his partizans, whose hopes he roused by his dexterity in all manly exercises, and his prudence in every occurrence. He staid some time in Scotland, where he increased in reputation; and on his return to Normandy, was invested with that duchy with the consent of his mother. His father died the following year, 1151.

Stephen dying soon after, Matilda ceded to her son the right of reigning, reserving only that of aiding him by her councils. Instructed by experience of the sorrows of ambition, and the nothingness of grandeur, she consecrated herself to penitence, virtue, and beneficence.

She saw through the character of Becket, and opposed the king's making him archbishop of Canterbury. But so well known was her probity and knowledge, that even the pope and the archbishop solicited her mediation in their subsequent quarrels; but she died during the contest.

She

She is called by Lyttleton the greatest lady that Europe had ever seen, empress of Germany by her first marriage, countess of Anjou, Touraine, and Maine by her second, and, by the will of her father, duchess of Normandy and queen of England. Yet she was more truly great in the latter part of her life, when she acted only as a subject, under the reign of her son, than at the time she beheld king Stephen her prisoner, and England at her feet. The violence of her temper and pride, inflamed by success, then dishonoured her character, and made her appear to her friends, as well as her enemies, unworthy of the dominion to which she was exalted: but from the instructions of adversity, age, and reflection, she learned the virtues she most wanted, moderation and mildness. These, joined to the elevation and vigour of her mind, enabled her to become a most useful counsellor and minister to her son, in the affairs of his government, which for some time past had been her sole ambition. There is not in all history another example of a woman who had possessed such high dignities, and encountered such perils for the sake of maintaining her power, being afterwards content to give it up, and, without forsaking the world, live quietly in it; neither mixing in cabals against the state, nor aspiring to rule it beyond that limited province which was particularly assigned to her administration. Such a conduct was meritorious in the highest degree, and more than atoned for all the errors of her former behaviour.

Camden says of her, “ She intituled herself empress and Augusta, for that she was thrice solemnly crowned at Rome, as R. de Diceto testifieth, and *Anglorum Domina*, because she was heir apparent to the crowne of England. She was very happy in her poet, who in these two sever-

ral verses, contained her princely parentage, match, and issue :

Magna ortu, majorque viro, sed maxima partu :

Hic jacet Henrici filia, sponsa, parens.

Great in her birth, greater in her marriage, greatest in her issue -

Here lieth the daughter, wife, and mother of Henries.

Lyttleton's Life of Henry II. ; Modern History ;

Rivalité de la France et de l'Angleterre, &c.

MATRINI (CLARA CANTARINI), of a noble Family at Lucca, one of the best Poets of the 16th Century. She was living in 1562.

HER stile is said to be pure, correct, and full of force and elegance ; her ideas clear, noble, and ingenious ; and she particularly excels as a lyrist. Many of her pieces are in *Rime di diversi Signori Napolitani è d'altri*, which was printed at Venice, 1566. The same are also printed separately. Many others are subjoined to her Letters, which were printed at Lucca, 1595. In these she appears well instructed in sacred history, and in theology in general ; one of them, to her son, contains many useful maxims for manners and conduct. Her *Christian Meditations*, mixed with very beautiful scraps of poetry, and concluded by a fine ode to the Almighty, were also printed there. She wrote also a *Life of the Virgin Mary*, in which are many pieces of poetry ; others are found in different collections. She was well skilled in the Platonic philosophy, was generally esteemed by the literati of that age, and corresponded with many of them.

F. C.

MAVIA,

MAVIA, *by Birth a Roman, and educated a Christian,*

WAS forced away by a troop of the Saracens of Pharan: and presented to Obedien, their prince, who was a Christian. From her great beauty, he made her his wife; and upon his death she became sole mistress of the kingdom; and immediately commenced hostilities with the Romans, (with whom they were at peace,) put herself at the head of her troops, made incursions into Palestine, as far as Phœnicia, ravaged the frontiers of Egypt, and was engaged in several battles, in which she obtained all the glory (A. D. 373, Valentinian, Valens, and Gratian, emperors). The commander in Phœnicia demanded succour of the general of the Eastern armies, who came with a considerable body of troops, and after severely taxing the cowardice of the commander, in not being able to resist a woman, commenced battle with her himself; ordering the commander to stand aloof as a simple spectator; but himself and army were soon forced to yield, and would have been cut to pieces, had not the Phœnician commander, forgetting the insult he had received, ran to his assistance, covered his retreat, and retired himself fighting, repulsing, and molesting the enemy with arrows. As the warlike princess continued to obtain all the advantage, the Romans were obliged to submit to ask for peace; to which she consented, on condition of their sending the anchorite Moses to be the bishop of her nation: this was performed, and idolatry destroyed in her kingdom. She maintained a strict alliance with the Romans, and gave her daughter in marriage to count Victor.

Histoire du Bas Empire.

MAYR (SUSANNA), *a famous Painter.*

F. C.

MAZARIN (HORTENSIA MANCINI, DUCHESS OF), *the favourite Niece of Cardinal Mazarin.*

REPRESENTED as one of those Roman beauties, who are so far removed from insignificance as to inspire respect as well as love. Her eyes were large, neither blue, gray nor black; but partook of all those colours, and were very beautiful, expressing with equal force, according to the different feelings of her soul; mild, vivacious, penetrating or serious; yet they were not tender: as if she was born to be loved, and not to feel it herself. Her smile was benevolent and her voice sweet and touching. She had a fine complexion, and black hair curling naturally; she was finely formed, and was the most accomplished woman in Europe. St. Evremond says, that she knew as much as a man could know, without any appearance of science; that she was without affectation.

She had an elder sister, that Louis XIV. wished to marry. But though Hortensia was the youngest, Cardinal Mazarin chose her to bear his name, and proposed her in marriage to Turenne, M. de Candales, and M. de la Feuillade. The first showed very little inclination, the second died, and the third quarrelled with her uncle. Charles, afterwards the II^d. of England, was one of her admirers; but he had then no possessions, and was not accepted. After the death of Cromwell he offered, and was again refused; but when he was placed on the throne, Cardinal Mazarin repented, and proposed
his

his niece to him; but the king, disgusted with his former conduct, did not accept the offer. At last, at the age of fifteen, she was married to the Duke de la Meilleraye, who was passionately in love with her; and she soon after became heiress to the cardinal, who left her twenty millions.

This young man, whose understanding was capricious and contracted, was also superstitious. Once, when he had broken with a hammer statues of inestimable value, M. Colbert sent by the king, asked him the motive: "My conscience," returned he. One day meeting the bishop of Noyon, he asked him his blessing, though the bishop was in a travelling dress, when it was unusual for them to bestow it. He, however, was so importunate, remaining on his knees at the foot of the chariot, that the bishop impatiently exclaimed, "Well! Sir, since you desire it so much, I give you my compassion." He soon, though without cause, became jealous of the duchess, carried her with him from one province to another, though she was not in a situation to travel; and seemed to take every opportunity of making himself disagreeable to her. The door was shut to every body she knew or liked; and if a servant happened to please her, immediate dismissal was the consequence. Prohibited of every pleasure however innocent, surrounded by a cabal who strove to give every word a wrong interpretation, the young Hortensia began to despair. She would have borne it all, she said, and passed her life in sorrow and confinement; but when the excessive expences of her husband threatened poverty to her son, who would else be the richest gentleman in France, she could bear it no longer. He took away her jewels, as useless and dangerous ornaments. In short, disputes ran so high between them that at length she fled to her sister, the countess of Sois-

sons. Her jewels were then sent to M. Colbert, and she staid some time in the abbey De Chelles. There, with a young friend of hers, she amused herself with childish sports, such as putting ink into the receptacles for holy water, &c. Her husband wanted to carry her off from this place, but was prevented, and after many divisions, in which the king interfered, they were in a manner reconciled, and lived together. But though still passionately fond of her, he interrupted her amusements, crossed her wishes, and took every pains to blacken her reputation. One of her servants, in consequence, hearing a calumny against her, drew his sword to revenge it, an indiscretion which was illnaturedly interpreted; and the duchess, who had not admitted the duke lately into her presence, heard with affright that she should be obliged to be reconciled. Inexperienced and rash, she disguised herself as a man, and, attended by a maid servant who had taken the same precaution, followed by two valets, she fled from her house, in 1667, and sought refuge with her elder sister, in Italy. She soon however felt the consequences of her flight, and declared, that could she have foreseen the danger she ran, and the slanders her absence from her husband occasioned, she would have preferred perpetual imprisonment and a violent death to incurring them.

After passing some time in a convent, and travelling over Italy; after many disguises, voyages, and resolutions, the duchess, in 1675, passed over to England to the duchess of York, who was her relation, and determined to remain there the rest of her life. Charles II. granted her a pension, which was continued by James II. and William III. who opposed the wish of parliament that she might leave the kingdom. Her husband was continually urging her return, but she would not be persuaded

suaded to put herself in his power. She was much admired by the English, but often felt the pressure of severe necessity, and died at Chelsea 1699, aged 53, having passed 30 years in England. Her misfortunes, which she attributed to the ingratitude she had shewn to her uncle the cardinal, who had done so much for her family, taught her to be very indifferent to life. Her husband survived her many years; and though, during her life, he was such a great enemy to superfluous expences on her account, he employed immense sums to transport her corpse to France and to bury it there. Memoirs of Madame de Mazarin may be seen in St. Evremond's and St. Real's works, as well as separately.

F. C. &c.

MEDICIS (CATHERINE DE), *Niece to Pope Clement VII, married Henry, Duke of Orleans, second son of Francis, afterwards Henry II, 1533.*

HENRY was then only in his 13th year, and when he succeeded to the throne 1547, Catherine was held in contempt, not only by him, but also by all those who surrounded him; yet the pliancy of her disposition, and her profound dissimulation, at length enabled her to become the head of a party. By caressing the duchess of Valentinois (Diana of Poitiers, mistress to the king, who had the most powerful party at court), although she detested her; by perpetually flattering the pride, and asking the advice of the Constable Montmorenci, whom she considered as her greatest enemy; and by stopping at nothing which could in the smallest degree promote the objects which she had in view, she obtained considerable favours for herself and partizans; but during the reign of her husband her influence was comparatively small: his death,

death, which happened in 1559, by a wound he received at a tournament, introduced Catherine to the exercise of full power. Her son, Francis II, who succeeded, had never enjoyed more than a passive existence ; without vices, without virtues, pronounced of age by the law, but condemned by nature to a perpetual minority, he was destined to become a blind instrument in the hand of the first person who should take possession of him.

Under these circumstances, Catherine might justly urge her superior pretensions to power ; but, as the times were turbulent and unsettled, requiring uncommon exertions of firmness, prudence, and sagacity, she deemed it prudent to associate with her in the administration, men of active minds, who should take upon them the chief burden of the state. Francis therefore, then sixteen, immediately upon the demise of his father, informed the parliament, he meant to take the reins of government into his own hands, aided by the advice of his mother, and assisted by the experience of the duke of Guise, and the cardinal of Lorraine. In endeavouring to humble the pride of the Constable Montmorenci, she so offended him that he left the court, attended by such a numerous train of friends, that his retreat wore the appearance of a triumph, and Catherine, though she wished to restrain his power, still desired to have kept him in the council, to balance the authority of the Guises, of whom she soon became apprehensive, lest it might be turned against herself ; especially as they were supported by Mary Stewart, their niece, whose sweetness of temper and personal charms had given her entire ascendancy over her husband. Besides it was her interest to conciliate the different factions : she had therefore recourse to the Chatillons, nephews to the constable, who accepted her offers ; while all the princes of the blood, who from
their

their birth might justly claim a share in the administration, were on various pretences excluded, and the Guises held despotic sway. The duke had secured the attachment of the troops, by the repeated proofs he had given of skill and courage in the field, while his liberality, magnificence, and courtesy endeared him to the people; his disposition was moderate, equitable, and intrepid in the hour of danger: the cardinal was chiefly indebted for his influence to the strength of his oratorical talents and religious orthodoxy; but his temper was vindictive, choleric and enterprising, too readily elated by success, and too easily depressed by defeat. Such were Catherine's associates, to whom she looked for support, yet trembled lest their excessive power should annihilate her own. At first she seemed averse to the dreadful spirit of persecution, which then raged against the Huguenots, and even reproved the cardinal for some sanguinary measures. In the discovery of the Calvinistic conspiracy, which was secretly headed by the prince of Condé, she had recourse to the advice of the Chatillons (one of whom was the Admiral Coligni) who were acknowledged protestants, to know what was the occasion of the threatened insurrection, and the best means to be adopted to prevent it. Coligni assured her it was from the cruelty of the edicts against those who professed to live according to the purity of the gospel, and the severity with which they were enforced. His observations were attended to, and by their united influence, a partial and temporary amelioration of those evils took place by means of a more merciful edict; she even liberated a great number of the rebels that were taken, whom it was supposed had not been privy to the plot, but had only wished to force a passage to the throne, that they might there present a supplication against the usurpation of the Guises, and obtain liberty of conscience.

At the trial of baron Castelnau, who was taken up in the affair, the noble and christian-like spirit he evinced, so struck the queen-mother, that she joined her voice with those who interceded in his behalf; but it was in vain, for the young monarch, tutored by his uncles, confirmed the sentence of death. The royal family, and all the court, attended this and other executions, which were performed in the castle yard. Anne of Este, duchess of Guise, was the only person who expressed any horror at the sight: pale, and trembling, she uttered a loud shriek, then quitting the place, ran to her apartment. The queen-mother paid her a visit, and found her in tears, desiring to know the cause of her grief: the duchess replied, "Alas! madam, never had mother a greater cause for affliction; what a dreadful storm of hatred, blood, and revenge, is now suspending over the heads of my unhappy children!"

The prince of Condé had retired to his own dominions; for though suspected to have been concerned in the plot of the Huguenots, it was not clearly ascertained; but the Guises, wishing to get him and his brother the king of Navarre into their power, made use of the meanest and most dishonest artifices to effect it. Catherine united with them in exerting all those arts of hypocrisy in which she was so eminently versed; they succeeded but too well, and the king and prince too soon repented accepting the deceitful invitation, in repairing to court, attended only by their usual retinue. On entering the royal presence, they found his majesty seated between the duke and cardinal; he received them coldly, and conducted them to the apartment of the queen-mother, who on their appearance shrieked, and burst into tears. Condé was presently apprehended by the king's guards, upon his order; the king of Navarre, whose easy credulity had greatly contributed

buted to reduce his brother to that situation, repeatedly called upon the queen-mother to declare whether she had not solemnly pledged her word that neither he nor his brother should meet with any molestation; but that artful and perfidious princess refused to answer him. The prince of Condé was tried by a commission appointed for the purpose; found guilty of *lèze majesté*, and condemned to suffer decapitation. The day of his execution was fixed at an early period, and the fate of this gallant man appeared inevitable; but the Sovereign Arbiter of the world, who baffles the presumptuous hopes of aspiring mortals, and speaks comfort to despair, had otherwise ordained. Whilst the king was attending vespers at the Jacobins, he suddenly fainted, and was conveyed senseless and motionless to his apartment; when he recovered his senses, he complained of a violent pain in his ears, which was occasioned by an abscess forming in his head. Whilst he was dying, the Guises at first meditated the immediate execution of Condé, but the queen concluded an accommodation both with him and his brother, on condition that on the king's demise he should renounce all pretensions to the regency, and submit to a reconciliation with the Guises, who she assured him had been in no wise instrumental to his imprisonment. He was accordingly liberated.

The king's death, which took place 1560, threw the whole court into confusion; the crown devolved on his brother Charles IX, then only eleven years of age. His early years incapacitating him to hold the reins of government, Catherine, at first, assumed the authority, though not the title of regent. But was soon obliged to relinquish a portion of her power to the king of Navarre, one of the first princes of the blood.

The states general were assembled, to adopt some measures

measures with respect to the finances, whilst the queen-mother strove to secure the attachment of the Huguenots: causing letters patent to be issued, whereby the king forbade all his subjects, under the severest penalties, to insult each other on matters of religion, and ordered all those to be released from prison, whose only crime was, having attended conventicles, exacting from them a promise to live *catholiquement* in future; if they would not make this promise, they were still to be released, on condition they left the kingdom in a given time. But the parliament were so far influenced by the spirit of bigotry, that they at the same time issued an arrêt, forbidding all persons, under pain of death, from holding conventicles, or unlawful assemblies; from buying and selling any book on religion, without the permission of the court. But the death of the king seemed to have suspended the power of the Guises, and the presence of the Prince of Condé turned the scale in favour of the Huguenots. It had ever been the policy of Catherine, to profit by the animosity of two parties, for the augmentation of her power; and so to hold the balance between them as to prevent either from securing a preponderance. Finding her authority questioned by the Huguenots, she thought it prudent to secure the attachment of their leaders: and accordingly applied to Coligni, who from his rank, station and principles, was justly considered as entitled to have great weight with his party. Unambitious of honours, and negligent of rewards, all the Admiral required was the promulgation of edicts favourable to the religion he professed; believing that those doctrines, which had made such rapid progress in the time of persecution, would thrive so fast under the influence of toleration, that the whole nation would in a few years be induced to adopt them, without bloodshed; that the immense riches of the

Romish

Romish clergy might be employed in paying the national debts, and in the support of the reformed ministers. Catherine was easily persuaded, being more anxious to preserve her rank, and to liquidate the public debt, than to maintain the established religion. Moderate measures were pursued, and the butchers, even in the time of Lent, were allowed to keep their shops open. Though Catherine did not dare attend the sermons of the Huguenots, yet she allowed the bishop of Valence, who had imbibed their principles, to hold daily conferences with them on controverted points in the king's anti-chamber, at which she was always present, accompanied by the ladies of the court. Though she at the same time contracted a contrary engagement with the cardinal of Lorrain, it appears probable she did not mean to fulfil it, as she retained Theodore Beza, the famous reformer, and his companions, near her person, suffering them to preach in the precincts of the Palais St. Germain.

The most dreadful disorders were continually occasioned by the mutual opposition of the parties. At a meeting of the deputies from the different parliaments, the queen declared it was the intention, both of herself and son, to live and die in the catholic religion; yet edicts were still published to favour the reformed, which much enraged the others. Catherine, alarmed at hearing that a catholic league was forming, to repress the progress of heresy, of which the king of Spain was chief, sent an ambassador to Philip, to inform him that the edicts in favor of the Huguenots displeased her much; and that only the critical situation of the kingdom had induced her to sanction them with her assent. Philip, in his answer, strenuously exhorted her to purge the kingdom of those contagious disorders by fire and sword, offering her all the assistance she might want for that purpose.

purpose. But, at the very time this artful princess was thus amusing the pope and king of Spain, with professions of attachment to the establishment, she carried on negociations with the protestant princes of Germany, urging them to enter into a league, which might enable them to oppose the sanguinary resolutions about to be adopted by the Council of Trent, which she represented as a conspiracy of all the catholic princes against the protestants. She well knew, she said, how odious the favour she had shewn to those who lived according to the purity of the gospel had made her appear to their barbarous persecutors; and that she must expect her refusal to join in their plots would draw their attacks upon herself.

About this time, the king of Spain wrought so on the mind of the credulous king of Navarre, as to engage him to forego the principles of the reformation; and, assisted by himself, procure the dismissal of the Chatelans, whose places were to be filled by himself and good catholics. The queen-mother was very much displeased; but, being obliged to yield, gave leave of absence to Coligni, and his brother the chancellor, and the king soon invited the Guises to return to court. Condé was at Paris, which was filled with armed men of both parties. Catherine and the king had left that city, intending to put themselves under the protection of the Huguenots, who were to conduct them to Orleans. A considerable body of troops, attended by the king of Navarre, secured the king and his indignant mother, under pretence of rescuing them from the enterprises of the Huguenots; and they were reconducted to the capital. The reformed religion was forbidden there, and all the Huguenots fled to Orleans, where an association was formed, of which the prince of Condé was declared protector; they de-
clared

clared their objects were the liberation of the king and queen-mother, and to obtain toleration; they thence made proposals, which, though agreeable to the queen, were rejected by the council; who prepared for war, after constraining the king and queen-mother to declare they had come to Paris of their own will, and were then at liberty.

The most dreadful tumults, massacres, and civil wars, took place throughout the kingdom; catholics and protestants seemed to vie with each other in acts of cruelty. Foreign powers were applied to on each side, and different treaties concluded. The Guises had at length entirely engaged Catherine in their interest; she earnestly wished for peace and the abolition of the reformed religion: she made frequent overtures to the prince of Condé, and several personal interviews took place between them; but Catherine positively declared, she would never permit the re-establishment of the edict of January, (one highly favorable to the protestants, that had been suppressed); and that her son was determined to allow the public exercise of no other religion than the catholic. The conferences failed, and the most dreadful persecutions followed; the parliament of Paris pronounced an arrêt, permitting all the Catholics in towns and villages to assemble in arms at the ringing of the bells, to pursue and destroy the Huguenots; and France became a scene of carnage, in which the protestants, when it was in their power, retaliated the cruelties on their persecutors, but several cities were taken from them.

At length, on the plains of Dreux, the armies being opposite each other, the catholic chiefs sent to the queen, informing her, they had it in their power to bring the Huguenots to action, and only waited for orders. Catherine, ever an enemy to all
strokes

strokes of decision, and still anxious to preserve her credit with both parties, asked their messenger, whether those great captains thought a woman and child better able than themselves to decide on the propriety of ordering Frenchmen to cut each others throats? Then conducting him to her son's apartment, she found him with his nurse, who was going to retire; but Catherine exclaimed, "Nurse, stay where you are; since it has become the custom for generals to consult women on what they are to do, say, shall we give battle or not?" The decision of the question was left to the commanders; the battle was fought: victory at first favoured the protestants, but at length sided with the catholics, and the prince of Condé was taken prisoner. The king of Navarre had been before killed in battle, and the duke of Guise was soon after shot by a cowardly assassin; with his dying voice he recommended peace to the queen; and, during the interval betwixt his wound and death, displayed a dignified and manly composure: he was esteemed the greatest general of his time. By his death the reins of government fell entirely into the hands of the queen. Both parties sincerely desiring peace, it was at last concluded, with a limited toleration to the protestants, 1563; and the prince of Condé returned to court. The declaration of the king's majority was hastened, from the assiduous application Catherine had given to settling the foreign and domestic affairs of the state. It must be owned, that at this time, she shewed herself abundantly capable of exercising, and not altogether unworthy of that supreme authority in the government, to which she had always aspired with excessive eagerness. By
her

her prudence and address she satisfied the German emperor, and negotiated amicably with Elizabeth of England. The king was declared of age 1563, when Catherine resigned the regency, and took the tour of France with her son. At Bayonne she had an interview with her daughter, the queen of Spain, and the duke of Alva, an ambassador appointed for that purpose by Philip; but the subject of the conference remained unknown: it is supposed that Spain and France agreed to maintain an uniformity of conduct in matters religious and political. But Catherine, now entirely devoted to the Catholics, by repeated affronts and constant violations of the edicts in their favour, alarmed the minds of the Huguenots, who saw their destruction was intended. Yet the queen, by soothing them, made them the means of engaging Swiss troops to enter as her mercenaries, under pretence that she feared a foreign invasion; nor till it was too late did they perceive her craft. They, in their turn, affected tranquillity, till their plot was laid, and train ready to take fire. A fruitless attempt to seize the person of the king a second time, commenced the civil war, and after some undecisive, though bloody battles and sieges, peace was concluded, and in a short time again broken on both sides. The protestant religion was proscribed by more rigorous edicts, the leaders pursued with inveteracy, and war again commenced, but after much effusion of blood, peace was again made 1570, and a great degree of toleration, and liberty, allowed the Huguenots. A marriage was proposed between the prince of Navarre, afterwards Henry IV, and the sister of the king; alliances were sought for by the court with

most of the foreign protestant princes; and war was about to be declared against Spain. The king seemed to exert every effort to conciliate the affection of the protestants. Admiral Coligni, now the head of the party, was invited to court, that Charles might be assisted by his advice; and honour and profit was there heaped upon him; whilst the king was swift in avenging any insult committed against their party; and such was the deep laid plan of deception now practised by Catherine and her son, that Sully justly calls it "an almost incredible prodigy of dissimulation!" Such, indeed, it must have been, since it completely imposed on Coligni's penetrating and sagacious mind. A conversation that had passed between them being overheard, on the queen of Navarre's arrival at court, was treated by him with neglect. "Have I not," said Charles, "acted my part well?" "Admirably!"—replied his mother,— "you have begun; but you must continue." "I will not finish," said Charles, with horrid execrations, "until I bring them all into the toils." Henry of Navarre soon after married Margaret; and this was the crisis for perpetrating their dark designs. The scheme for drawing together the protestant leaders at the marriage of Henry had succeeded beyond their hopes; above 700 of the nobility and gentry, the flower of the chieftains of that persuasion, were in the city and suburbs, unarmed and unprepared.

The death of Coligni was intended as the first stroke of vengeance inflicted by the merciless and perfidious junto; a fruitless attempt soon after made to assassinate him, by a creature of the duke of Guise, alarmed once more their fears: but Charles and Catherine expressed so much detestation of the deed, that they in a measure lulled

lulled their suspicions. A guard was appointed about Coligni's person, and all the protestants lodged in his neighbourhood. Charles is said to have betrayed such fear and irresolution on the eve of St. Bartholomew, that all the art of his mother was requisite to make him give the order. "Shall the occasion," said the blasphemous Catherine, "that God presents of avenging the obdurate enemies of your authority, be suffered to escape through your want of courage? How much better is it to tear in pieces these corrupt members, than to rankle the bosom of the church, the spouse of our Lord?" This impious exhortation expelled from his bosom every sentiment of humanity, and with eyes glaring with rage, he pronounced the horrid mandate:—"Go on, then; and let none remain to reproach me with the deed." Having thus obtained her aim, Catherine anticipated the hour of the signal; the bell was rung! Coligni's house was first beset; and the admiral died as he had lived, anxious for the safety of his friends. The greatest indignities were offered to his corpse. A general massacre then ensued; and horrors, which humanity can scarce conceive, were perpetrated. About 6000 protestants, 500 of whom were nobility, thus perished in Paris, and this inhuman slaughter appears to have been premeditated before the last peace was agreed on; or it might be the subject of one of the queen's conferences with the duke of Alva, at Bayonne. About 30,000 were butchered in other parts of the kingdom. The exasperated protestants, regarding the faith of their enemies as worthless, fortified themselves to the utmost of their power, and demanded full toleration. The duke of Anjou, offended at not being appointed lieutenant-general of the kingdom after his brother's accession to the crown of Poland (the former duke of Anjou), entered

tered into a plot to escape to the protestant chiefs; but his plan was discovered by Catherine, who greatly enlarged upon it to the king; and, by pretending to make use of means for its full discovery, kept both his majesty (who was then very ill) and the duke almost as state prisoners; and on this plea she apprehended some of the principal nobility, who were disaffected. Mean while the king's indisposition increased; and in its last stage, he issued letters patent to the governors of the provinces, requiring them to obey his mother, during his illness: he also nominated her, on his demise, to the regency of the kingdom, until his brother the king of Poland should arrive. Yet before his death, which happened 1574, he expressed the greatest remorse for the massacre of St. Bartholomew, and the various other cruelties to which he had been instigated by his unnatural mother. Catherine immediately assumed the reins of power, until her son's arrival, closely guarding the king of Navarre and the duke of Anjou.

The people expected an active, vigilant and high spirited monarch; but they found Henry III. irresolute, inconstant, indolent, and voluptuous: a strange compound of sensuality and devotion. Alternately governed by licentious minions, and bigotted priests. Civil war was again kindled, and the king of Navarre effected his escape to Tours, where he publicly resumed the exercise of the protestant religion. But Catherine once more contrived to avert the storm that hung over the kingdom; and by exerting her usual address in the arts of negotiation, the combined princes were induced to lay down their arms; the reformed were allowed the free exercise of their religion, on condition they should not preach within two miles of Paris. These favourable terms granted to the Huguenots, furnished the catholics with
a plau-

a plausible pretext for forming themselves into a league 1576, of which Henry III. was declared head. A. D. 1583, the duke of Anjou died, and the king of Navarre became heir apparent to the throne; but Catherine exerted all her influence over her son to prevail on him to promote his exclusion, and transfer his rights to the children of her daughter, by the duke of Lorraine. The duke of Guise and his brother, encouraged by the queen-mother, put themselves at the head of the league, and their emissaries were loud against an heretical sovereign. The armies took the field, and many sieges ensued. In 1586, Catherine had an interview with the king of Navarre, and the prince of Condé, attended as usual, by the most beautiful women of the court; but neither the persuasions of the one, nor charms of the other, could prevail on the princes to renounce their religion. Meanwhile the dissensions between the king and duke of Guise daily increased, each party were determined on extremities: Henry had little more than the name of king; and that little continually decreased. Catherine in vain, by tears and remonstrances, attempted to reconcile them; but the breach was too wide to be filled by pacific measures. Henry at length fled from Paris, but now the mediation of Catherine was once more successfully employed, and Henry in appearance reconciled to his rebellious subjects; but by his orders the duke of Guise was assassinated, 1588. As soon as Henry was informed of his death, he passed into the apartment of the queen-mother; and, acquainting her with the event, added, "I am now a king, madam; for the duke of Guise is no more." Catherine, without blaming or commending the action, only coldly asked, if he had considered the consequences? Those which immediately

followed, were in the highest degree prejudicial to his interests; and he now totally withdrew his confidence from Catherine. Mortified at the loss of an authority she had so long enjoyed, and advanced in years, she expired at Blois, 1589, in the 73d year of her age. In her last moments she perceived the fatal effects of her own insidious policy, and strenuously exhorted Henry to be reconciled to the princes of his blood, particularly the king of Navarre, whose sincerity, she declared, she had constantly experienced; and advised him to restore tranquillity to his kingdom, by putting a stop to the persecution of the protestants, and allowing them the free exercise of their religion.

Gifford's France.

MEGALOSTRATA, *a Grecian Poetess, Friend of Alcmon the Lyrist, about 672, B. C.*

NONE of her poems remain; but there are satires written against her.

F. C.

MERIAN (MADAME), *see GRAVIO; born at Frankfort, 1647.*

FAMOUS for painting flowers, &c. in water colours; took several journeys, to forward her favourite study, particularly to the West Indies, where, during two months stay at Surinam, she painted after nature all the insects she could discover, which were published, with explanations in Latin, at Amsterdam, 1705, folio, and twice reprinted, in Latin and French. She published also a book of Caterpillars, their changes, and the plants they

they feed upon, which were much admired; and two on European insects. She died at Amsterdam, 1717.

L'Advocat's Biog.

MESSALINA, *Wife of the Roman Emperor Claudius.*

FAMOUS for her licentiousness and cruelty. She was put to death, A. D. 48.

METRANA (ANNE), *one of the most celebrated Painters, at Turin, in the Beginning of this Century.*

IN painting portraits from nature, she advanced the glory of the art, having in this surpassed her mother, a very fine painter.

Abecedario Pitt.

MHER-UL-NISSA, *Wife of the Mogul Emperor Jehangire,*

WAS the daughter of Chaja Aiass, a native of the Western Tartary, who left that country to push his fortune in Hindostan, the usual resource of the needy Tartars of the north. He left home privately, with only one sorry horse, and a very small sum of money, the produce of his effects. Placing his wife upon the horse, he walked by her side. She happened to be pregnant, and could ill endure the fatigues of so great a journey. This scanty pittance of money was soon expended, they had even subsisted some days upon charity, when they arrived on the skirts of the great solitudes, which separate Tartary from the dominions of the family of Timur, in India. No house was there to cover them from the inclemency of the weather; no hand to relieve their wants.

wants. To return was certain misery ; to proceed, apparent destruction. They had fasted three days, and to complete their distress a daughter was born to them. No travellers appeared, night was coming on, the place was the haunt of wild beasts. Chaja Aiass, in this extremity, having placed his wife on the horse, found himself so much exhausted he could hardly move. To carry the child was impossible; the mother could not even hold herself fast on the horse. A long contest began between humanity and necessity: the latter prevailed, and they agreed to expose the child on the highway. The infant, covered with leaves, was left under a tree, and the disconsolate parents proceeded in tears. But when they had advanced about a mile from the place, and the eyes of the mother could no longer distinguish the tree under which she had left her daughter, she gave way to grief, and throwing herself from the horse on the ground, exclaimed, “ my child! my child!” She endeavoured to raise herself, but had not strength to move. Aiass was pierced to the heart. He prevailed upon his wife to sit down. He promised to bring her the infant. He returned to the place; but no sooner had his eyes reached the child, than he was almost struck dead with horror. A black snake was coiled round it; and Aiass believed he beheld him extending his fatal jaws to devour the infant. The father rushed forward. The serpent, alarmed at his vociferation, retired into the hollow tree. He took up his daughter unhurt, and returned to the mother; and, as he was informing her of the wonderful escape of the infant, some travellers appeared, and soon relieved them from all their wants. They proceeded gradually to Lahore, where the Emperor Akbar kept his court. Here he had the good fortune to find a distant relation of his, one of that monarch’s principal

principal omrahs, who made him his secretary; and his ability and diligence being remarked by the emperor, he soon rose to be high-treasurer of the empire.

The daughter who had been born to him in the desert, received, soon after his arrival at Lahore, the name of Mher-ul-Nissa, or the sun of women. She had some right to the appellation; for in beauty she excelled all the ladies of the East. She was educated with the utmost care and attention. In music, in dancing, poetry, and painting, she had no equal among her sex. Her disposition was volatile, her wit lively and satirical, her spirit lofty and uncontrouled. Selim, the prince royal, visited her father one day, and the ambitious Mher-ul-Nissa aspired to captivate him. The ladies, according to custom, being introduced after the public entertainment was over, she sung and displayed all her accomplishments. The prince was in raptures; and, her veil dropping, the sight of her face completed the conquest.

She had been betrothed by her father to Shere Afkun, a Turcomanian nobleman of great renown. The prince applied to his father, who refused to commit an act of injustice, though in favour of the heir of his throne, and she became the wife of Afkun. During the life of the emperor, the prince durst make no open attack upon his fortunate rival; but the courtiers worshipped the rising sun; Shere Afkun became disgusted, and retired into the province of Bengal, where he obtained from the suba of that country the superintendence of the district of Burdwan. From thence, however, he was recalled on the death of Akber. Selim was afraid to deprive the omrah forcibly of his wife; and Shere, inflexible in his determination to retain her. Naturally high spirited and proud, and of uncommon valour,
having

having gained his name by killing a lion, he could not yield to indignity and public shame.

Selim, or rather Jehangire, for he took that name on his accession to the throne, was at Delhi, when he recalled Shere Afkun, and received him graciously; who, naturally open and generous, suspected not the emperor's intentions; time, he thought, had erased the memory of Mher-ul-Nissa from his mind. But he was deceived, the monarch was resolved to remove his rival; but the means he used were at once foolish and disgraceful. He appointed a hunt, and ordered the haunt of an enormous tiger to be explored. The ground was surrounded on all sides, and the party began to move towards the cave. The tiger was roused; and the emperor proposed, that one amongst them should encounter him singly. Three of the omrahs offered; but Shere Afkun, ashamed to be outdone, offered to fight him without any weapons, and though the emperor made a shew of dissuading him, the combat fell to his share, and he conquered. But scarce was he recovered from his wounds, when a plan was laid to tread him to death by an elephant, as if by accident, but this again was foiled; and whether the emperor felt remorse for his behaviour, or that his passion for Mher-ul-Nissa was lessened, no attempt was made for the space of six months against the life of Shere, who retired to the capital of Bengal. But the designs of the monarch were no secret to Kuttub, suba of Bengal, who, to ingratiate himself with the emperor, though not it is believed by his orders, hired forty ruffians to attack and murder Shere in his bed. But this villainous plan was rendered abortive, chiefly by his own courage: and Shere retired from the capital of Bengal, to his old residence

residence at Burdwan. There he hoped to live in peace and obscurity, with his beloved Mher-ul-Nissa. But Kuttub had been rewarded for his attempt; and, eager still further to please the emperor, he resolved to make the tour of the dependant provinces. In his rout he came to Burdwan; and in a scuffle, occasioned by one of his pikemen intentionally affronting Shere, both he and the latter were slain.

Mher-ul-Nissa seemed not to feel so much sorrow as she ought; ambition stifling her feelings: for in vindication of her apparent insensibility, she pretended to follow the injunctions of her deceased husband; alleging that Shere, foreseeing his own fall by Jehangire, had conjured her to yield to the wishes of that monarch without hesitation. The reasons which she gave for this improbable request were, that he was afraid his own exploits would sink into oblivion, without they were connected with the remarkable event of giving an empress to India.

Here, however, her ambition received a very unexpected check. She was sent, with all imaginable care, to Delhi, and received kindly by the emperor's mother; but Jehangire refused to see her. He gave orders that she should be shut up in one of the worst apartments of the seraglio; and allowed her but fourteen anas (about two shillings) a day, for the subsistence of herself and some female slaves. Whether his mind was tormented by remorse, or then fixed upon another object, authors do not agree. But the emperor's mother, who was deeply interested for Mher-ul-Nissa, could not prevail upon her son to see her; and, when she spoke of the widow of Shere, he turned away in silence.

Mher-ul-Nissa was a woman of haughty spirit, and
could

could not brook this treatment. She gave herself up for some time, to grief, abundantly, and perhaps really, for the loss of her husband; for her ambitious hopes thus unexpectedly blasted, she could not but reflect with regret on a brave man, whose sufferings and whose death she was passively the occasion of. But at length she was reconciled to her condition, and an expedient offered itself to her active mind, to raise her own reputation, and to support herself and slaves with more decency, than the scanty pittance allowed her would admit. She called forth her invention and taste, in working some admirable pieces of tapestry and embroidery, in painting silks with exquisite delicacy, and in inventing female ornaments of every kind. These articles were carried by her slaves, to the different squares of the royal seraglio, and to the harems of the great officers of the empire. The inventions of Mher-ul-Nissa excelled so much in their kind, that they were brought with the greatest avidity. Nothing was fashionable among the ladies of Delhi and Agra, but the work of her hands. She accumulated, by these means, a considerable sum of money, with which she repaired and beautified her apartments, and clothed her slaves in the richest tissues and embroideries, while she herself wore a very plain and simple dress.

In this situation she remained four years, without once having seen the emperor. Her fame reached his ears from every apartment in the seraglio. Curiosity, at length, overcame his resolution. He resolved to surprise her; and, communicating his resolution to none, he suddenly entered her apartments, where he found every thing so elegant and magnificent, that he was struck with amazement. But the greatest ornament of the whole was Mher-ul-Nissa herself: she lay, half reclined

clined on an embroidered sopha, in a plain dress. Her slaves sat in a circle around her, at work, attired in rich brocades. She slowly arose, in manifest confusion; and received the emperor with the usual ceremony of touching first the ground, then her forehead with her right hand. She did not utter one word; but stood with her eyes fixed on the ground, while Jehangire remained silently admiring her stature, grace, and beauty.

As soon as he recovered from his confusion, he sat down on the sopha, and requested her to sit by his side. The first question he asked, was, "why the difference between the appearance of Mher-ul-Nissa and her slaves?" She very shrewdly replied, "those born to servitude must dress as it shall please those whom they serve. These are my servants: and I alleviate the burden of bondage by every indulgence in my power. But I, that am your slave, O emperor of the Moguls, must dress according to your pleasure, and not my own." Though this answer was a kind of sarcasm on his behaviour, it was so pertinent and well timed that it greatly pleased Jehangire. His former affection returned, with all its violence; and, the next day, public orders were issued to prepare a magnificent festival, for his nuptials with Mher-ul-Nissa. Her name was also changed, by an edict, into Noor-Mahil, or Light of the Seraglio. The emperor's former favourites vanished before her; and, during the rest of his reign, she bore the chief sway in all the affairs of the empire.

The great power of Noor-Mahil appeared, for the first time, in the immediate advancement of her family. Her father, who, in the latter end of the reign of Acbar, had been treasures of the empire, was raised to the office of absolute visier and first minister; her two brothers, to the first rank of nobility. Her numerous relations
poured

poured in from Tartary, upon hearing the fortune of the house of Aiass; some of them were gratified with high employments, all with lucrative ones. The writers of Hindostan remark, that no family ever rose so suddenly, or so deservedly, as that of Chaja Aiass; for they were not dazzled by their sudden greatness, but acted with probity, honour, and moderation; and the name of her father, in particular, is still remembered in Hindostan with affection and gratitude. The empire was a gainer by the estrangement of Jehangire from public affairs; for the new visier was an enlightened patriot, and indefatigable in promoting every useful art, and the strictest administration of justice.

In the East, glory is so connected with power and magnificence, that an ambitious mind, even under the influence of a good understanding, can see nothing else to aim at. Noor-Mahil introduced such luxury and magnificence, that expensive pageants and sumptuous entertainments became the whole business of the court. The voice of music never ceased by day in the streets; the sky was enlightened at night by fireworks and illuminations; her name was joined with that of the emperor on the current coin; she was the spring, which moved the machine of state; her family took place immediately after the princes of the blood, and were admitted into the most secret apartments of the seraglio. She for the most part ruled the emperor with absolute sway: an edict was issued, to change her name from Noor-Mahil to that of Noor-Jehân, or Light of the World. To distinguish her from the other wives of the emperor, she was always addressed by the title of *Shahe*, or empress.

On the death of her father, about 1627, the empress

press was inconsolable. She proposed, at once, as a proof of her affection and magnificence, to perpetuate his memory in a monument of solid silver; but, being convinced so precious a metal would not be the most lasting means of transmitting his memory to posterity, she dropt her purpose, and a magnificent fabric of stone was erected in Agra. He was succeeded by her brother, whose daughter Shaw Jehân, one of the princes, had lately married, and who was the mother of the famous, but unworthy, Aurengzebe. The ambitious designs of Shaw Jehân, though hid with great cunning, were discovered by the penetrating eye of the empress. who, warning the emperor of him, he was convinced, though too late to be sufficiently aware of the baseness of his disposition. She is said, by opposite writers, to have had another cause also for decyphering his character. Shariar, the fourth son of Jehangire, was married to her daughter, by her former husband, and she wished so fix the succession on him. She is said to have obtained a promise to this effect from the emperor; and this is alledged as a reason for the revolt raised by Shaw Jehân. It is certain, at least, that this revolt caused the emperor to punish his obstinately rebellious son, by excluding him; and the complaints of the latter, against Noor-Jehân, only found credit with the superficial; since he had already put to death a brother in cold blood. After much bloodshed, and many turns of fortune, this son was subdued and pardoned.

Mohabat, a brave man, to whom this fortunate conclusion of the war was in a great degree owing, was at first greatly caressed by the emperor; but having many enemies, among whom had long been the sultana and
her

her brother, one Chan Chanan, who imputed the death of his son to Mohabat, accused him of high treason; and the accusation getting to the emperor's ears, who was naturally suspicious, he enquired into it, and finding some things which gave colour to the report, forgot the services of that general, and ordered him to court. He went, but with five thousand men to protect him. He was ordered to account, before he presented himself to the emperor, for some part of his conduct; and, enraged at the affront, sent his son-in-law to complain of it. But the emperor sent the young man back with great indignity. Determined to secure himself, and to be revenged, Mohabat surprised Jehangire in his tent, took him prisoner; and, though with a show of respect, made him obey his wishes implicitly.

The sultana had made her escape in the mean time; but, Mohabat, who considered her as partly the source of his disgrace, determined to get her in his power. She was the messenger of the disaster to her brother, and consulted with him on the properest means of rescuing the emperor, whose attendants she vehemently accused of negligence and cowardice. The emperor sent them word to desist; but, as he was under the influence of Mohabat, who still held him prisoner, they did not think themselves obliged to obey. They had to fight the enemy, at a great disadvantage. The sultana was not a tame spectator of the battle. Mounted on an elephant, she plunged into the stream with her daughter by her side. The young lady was wounded in the arm; but her mother pressed forward. Three of her elephant drivers were successively killed; and the elephant received three wounds in the trunk. She, in the mean time, emptied four quivers of arrows on the enemy, whose soldiers pressed into the stream to seize her;

her; but the master of her household, mounting the elephant, turned him away, and carried her out of the river, notwithstanding her threats and commands. The imperialists behaved with great gallantry, and gained ground, but were in the end repulsed with great slaughter. They dispersed, and the sultana found means to escape to Lahore. Mohabat invited the visier to the camp, with assurances of safety, but he would not trust him; with Noor-Jehân he was more successful. She was scarcely arrived at Lahore, when she received letters from the emperor. He acquainted her that he was treated with respect by Mohabat, and that matters were amicably settled between them. He conjured her, therefore, as she regarded his peace and safety, to lay aside all hostile preparations, and to follow him to Cabul, where of his own free choice he directed his march. Noor-Jehân did not long hesitate. When she arrived, troops were sent out by Mohabat, by way of doing her honour. But they were her keepers, and not her guards; they surrounded her tent, and watched her motions. Having got her in his power, Mohabat soon threw off the mask, and accused her publicly of treason. He affirmed, that she had conspired against the emperor, by estranging from him the hearts of his subjects; that her haughtiness was the source of public calamities, her malignity the ruin of many individuals; that the most cruel and unwarrantable actions had been done, from her capricious orders in every part of the empire; that she had even extended her views to the throne, by favouring the succession of Shariar, under whose feeble administration she hoped to govern India at pleasure. He therefore insisted that she should be made an example of. "You, who are emperor of the Moguls!" said he to Jehangire, "whom we look upon as something more

than

than human, ought to follow the example of God, who has no respect to persons."

Jehangire felt his situation, and signed the warrant for her death.—The dreadful message was delivered to the sultana; she heard it without emotion. "Imprisoned sovereigns," said she, "lose their right to life with their freedom; but permit me for once to see the emperor, and to bathe with my tears the hand that has sealed my doom." She was brought before her husband, in the presence of Mohabat. When in his sight, Jehangire was again sensible of the charms which lost their force in absence. Her beauty shone with additional lustre through her sorrow. She uttered not one word. Jehangire burst into tears; "will you not spare this woman, Mohabat?" said he, "you see how she weeps." Mohabat answered, "The emperor of the Moguls should never ask in vain." The guards retired from her, at a wave of his hand; and she was restored that instant to her former attendants.

Mohabat now had all but the outward pomp of power; and, under the name of the emperor, who seemed to have forgotten all resentment, governed the kingdom for six months; but Noor-Jehân was busied in schemes, which she concealed even from his penetrating eyes. He was attacked, in the city of Cabul, one morning, when he was coming to pay his respects to the emperor. In revenge, he blocked up the city; and the principal inhabitants laying all the blame on the rabble, came out in the most suppliant manner to Mohabat. Jehangire, who disclaimed all knowledge of it, interceded for them, and only the most notorious ringleaders were punished. This project was defeated, but he determined

to resign his power; and, after obtaining the most solemn promises of oblivion from the emperor, he did so. But he had gone too far to retreat. The weak forget, but the haughty never forgive indignities. The sultana kept fresh in her memory her disgrace, and remembered her danger. She applied to Jehangire for his immediate death. "A man," said she, "who is so daring as to seize the person of his sovereign, is a dangerous subject. The lustre of royalty must be diminished in the eyes of the people, whilst he who pulled his prince from the throne is permitted to kneel before it with feigned allegiance." Jehangire was shocked at her proposal, and commanded her to be silent.

She appeared to acquiesce; but, from fears and injuries, Mohabat was driven again into rebellion, and the emperor dying during the contest, we hear no more of Noor-Jehân.

Dow's History of Hindostan.

MILLAR (LADY),

AN English lady, of some literary talents, who published *Letters from Italy*, 3 vol. 8vo. She resided at Bath-Easton, near Bath, where she entertained several ingenious persons, who composed a collection of poems, which was afterwards published; she died in 1781.

MIRAMION (MARY, DAME DE); *born at Paris, 1629; died 1696, aged 66.*

DAUGHTER of James Bonneau, seig. de Ruballe; married, 1645, to Beauharnois, seig. de Miramion, who died the same year. She had a daughter by him. Being young, rich, and very handsome, she

was solicited to marry again, and M. de Bussi Rabutin went so far as to have her run away with; but his purpose was defeated, and she determined to remain single for the rest of her life. She founded a house for profligate women and girls, who were irreclaimable, and that of St. Pelagia, for such as wished to retire to it. She also established, in 1661, a society of twelve young women, to keep small schools, dress wounds, and attend the sick; which community she governed with much prudence and wisdom. Her *Remedies* are very famous.

L'Advocat.

MCEROE.

A WOMAN who seems to have been one of the most considerable of the ancients for learning, but is particularly remembered for her Hymn to Neptune.

Female Worthies.

MOHGIA, *of Granada, a Moorish Spaniard of high birth,*

WAS a woman of a sprightly genius, elegant manners, and natural poetical talents.

Bibliothecæ Arabico-Hispanæ Escurialiensis.

MOLSA (TARQUINIA), *Daughter of Camillo Molsa, Knight of the Order of St. James, in Spain, and Grand-daughter of the celebrated Francis-Maria Molsa.*

HER father observing, even in her infancy, the excellence of her genius, procured her the best masters in every branch of literature and science. Lazaro Labadini, a celebrated grammarian, taught her polite literature; and her Latin compositions, both in prose and verse, are sufficient proofs of her attainments in writing

ing and composing correctly. She became learned in Aristotle, under Camillo Corcapani. Anthony Guarini, the mathematician, taught her the doctrine of the sphere. She learned poetry, under Francis Patricius, the famous philosopher; and logic and philosophy, under P. Latoni, who also instructed her thoroughly in the Greek tongue. The principles of the Hebrew language were taught her by Rabbi Abraham; and the politeness of the Tuscan tongue she learned of John Maria Barbier; in which last she not only wrote a great number of easy and elegant verses, but likewise several letters, and other pieces, which are highly esteemed by the learned in Italy. Besides her original works, she has translated several things from Greek and Latin, in a manner which convinces us she understood those languages as well as her own. She afterwards learned music, as a relaxation and diversion from her more serious studies; and in this art attained a surprising degree of perfection; used to play upon the violin, as well as upon the flute, and sing to it at the same time in a manner which marked exquisite taste; she instituted a choir of ladies, and became their president. The eulogium, which Francis Patricius, one of her tutors, has given her, deserves attention; as it is supposed not to exceed the truth, though written in the highest strains of panegyric.

This lady was in high reputation at the court of Alphonsus II. duke of Parma, a prince of great judgment, and a passionate lover of eloquence. But the most authentic testimony and declaration of her high merit and character, was that which she received from the city of Rome; which, by a decree of the senate, in which all her excellencies and qualifica-

tions are summed up, in 1600 honoured her with the title of Singular, and bestowed the rights of a Roman citizen on her, and the whole family of Molsa. Part of the patent runs thus: ‘ Though it be new and uncommon for the senate to admit women into the number of citizens, whose excellencies and fame, as they ought to be confined to family affairs, are seldom of service to the common wealth in public matters; yet if there be any one among them, who not only surpasses the rest of her own sex, but even the men, in almost all virtues, it is reasonable, that by a new example, new and unusual honours should be paid to new and unusual merit. Since therefore Tarquinia Molsa, a native of Modena, &c. resembles by her virtues those famous Roman heroines, so that she seems to lack nothing, but being a Roman citizen, that this alone might not be wanting to complete her glory, the senate and people of Rome have decreed to present her with the freedom of the city, &c.’

She was the wife of Paulus Porrinus, but losing him, would never consent to be married again, although then young and without children. She gave such lively tokens of her grief, that Patricius compares her to another Artemisia.

Female Worthies.

MONICA, *the Mother of Augustine, Bishop of Hippo; lived towards the latter End of the 4th Century.*

SHE had been brought up in a christian family; but was not so much indebted to her mother's cares as to that of a decrepid old servant of the house, who had nursed her father, and who superintended the education of her master's daughters. She never suffered them to drink even water, except at meals, telling

telling them, that if ever they became mistresses, the custom of drinking would remain; but they would then indulge it in wine, not water. Yet Monica, notwithstanding the care of this provident governess, when young, had learned by degrees to drink wine, having been sent to draw it for the use of the family; but one of the maids of the house, being in a passion, malignantly called her drunkard; and she, struck with shame that such a reproach should be addressed to her, gave up the practice for ever.

She was married to Patricius, a pagan, of Tagasta, in Numidia, and endeavoured by her amiable manners to win him to her faith, patiently bearing with his passionate temper, and hoping that as his heart was benevolent he would one day believe, and be a curb to himself. She bore with him when angry in silence; and when she saw him cool, would meekly expostulate. Many matrons in her company complained of the harsh treatment they received from their husbands, whose tempers were yet milder than that of Patricius; and, when they expressed their wonder that they never heard of their quarrels, she informed them of her plan, and counselled them to follow it; which some did, and were thankful to her for its success. Her mother-in-law, from unkindness and prejudice, was entirely won over by her obsequiousness; and she was never known to repeat any of the fierce things, which she heard from people at variance with each other, conscientiously exact in saying nothing but what might tend to heal and reconcile.

Though so implicitly obedient to her husband, she prevailed upon him to let her son be brought up a christian; but though he made great progress in profane learning, and seems to have had some
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idea of the benefits of a holy life at times, he was led away into sin, even so as to glory in it; and his father, who cared little for those things, and only wished him to be learned and eloquent, was satisfied; but Monica grieved to see the increasing strength of his passions, wept and prayed for him, that he might not be wholly lost. Having been led away by the errors of the Manichees, and still continuing to sin without fear, she for nine years attempted to turn him from his evil ways, not only by remonstrances, but by fervent prayers to the Almighty. Her husband, after embracing the Christian faith, had left her a widow, and her darling son was now the only object of her solicitude.

She entreated a bishop to reason him out of his errors, and he was a person not backward to attempt this, when he found a docile subject. "But your son," said he, "is too much elated at present, and carried away with the pleasing novelty of his error, to regard any arguments, as appears by the pleasure he takes in puzzling many ignorant persons with his captious questions. Let him alone; only continue praying to the Lord for him; he will in the course of his study, discover his error." All this did not satisfy the anxious parent; with floods of tears she persisted in her request. When at last he, a little out of temper, on account of her importunity, said, "Be gone, good woman; it is not possible a child of such tears should perish."

For years did this amiable mother bear up against the sorrows she felt so severely, attentive to her own duties as a mother and a christian, and look forward with hope that this son, whom she nursed with so much care in illness would at last become sensible of his
eternal

eternal welfare, and she was not disappointed; he became a christian after he was 30 years old, and not a nominal one. His excellent understanding, and deep sense of his former errors, taught him at once to be humble, rational and pious.

She had followed him to Rome, on hearing of his illness, and remained there with him afterwards. They were discoursing one evening alone, at a window, facing the east, in a house at the south of the Tiber, on holy subjects. The world appeared of no value to either. She said, “ Son, what I should do here and why I am here, I know not; the hope of this life being quite spent. One thing only, your conversion, was an object for which I wished to live. My God has given me this in a large measure. What do I here?” Scarce five days after, she fell into a fever. Some one lamented, that she was likely to die in a foreign land. She had formerly been anxious about it. “ Nothing,” said she, “ is far from God: and I do not fear, that he should not know where to find me at the resurrection.” She died on the 9th day of her illness, in the 56th year of her age; having performed the duties of a wife and mother with exemplary mildness, patience and wisdom.

Milner’s Church of Christ.

MONK (HONOURABLE MRS.), *Daughter of the Right Hon. Lord Molesworth, of Ireland, and Wife of George Monk, Esq.*

SHE acquired a perfect knowledge of the Latin, Italian, and Spanish tongues; and by reading the best authors in those languages, became a proficient in the art of poetry.

poetry. She wrote many poems for her own diversion, yet with such accuracy, that they were deemed worthy of publication, and soon after her death, which happened about the year 1715, they were printed with this title, *Marinda: Poems and Translations upon several Occasions*, 1716. They were dedicated to the princess Caroline, since queen, by her father, lord Molesworth; who speaks of the poems and the author in the following manner: ‘Most of them,’ says he, ‘are the product of leisure hours of a young gentlewoman lately dead, who, in a remote country retirement, without any assistance, but that of a good library, and without omitting the daily care due to a large family, not only perfectly acquired the several languages here made use of, but the good morals and principles contained in these books, so as to put them in practice, as well during her life and languishing sickness, as at the hour of her death. In short, she died not only like a christian, but a Roman lady; and so became at once the object of the grief and comfort of her relations. As much as I am obliged to be sparing in commending what belongs to me, I cannot forbear thinking some of these circumstances uncommon enough to be taken notice of. I loved her more because she deserved it, than because she was mine; and I cannot do greater honour to her memory, than by consecrating her labours, or rather her diversion, to your royal highness, as we found most of them in her scritore after her death, written with her own hand; little expecting, and as little desiring, the public should have any opportunity either of applauding or condemning them.’

Mr. Gyles Jacob, in his *Lives of the Poets*, tells us, that these poems and translations shew the true spirit
and

and numbers of poetry, a delicacy of turn, and justness of thought and expression.

She wrote the following epitaph on a lady of pleasure.

O'er this marble drop a tear,
Here lies fair Rosalinde;
All mankind were pleased with her,
And she with all mankind.

The following verses (we are informed) were written on her death-bed at Bath to her husband in London.

Thou who dost all my worldly thoughts employ,
Thou pleasing source of all my earthly joy,
Thou tenderest husband, and thou best of friends,
To thee, this first, this last adieu I send.
At length the conqueror death asserts his right,
And will forever vail thee from my sight.
He woos me to him with a chearful grace;
And not one terror clouds his meagre face.
He promises a lasting rest from pain;
And shews that all life's fleeting joys are vain.
Th' eternal scenes of heaven he sets in view,
And tells me that no other joys are true.
But love, fond love, would yet resist his power,
Would fain a while defer the parting hour:
He brings thy mourning image to my eyes,
And would obstruct my journey to the skies.
But say, thou dearest, thou unwearied friend,
Say, should'st thou grieve to see my sorrows end?
Thou know'st a painful pilgrimage I've past,
And should'st thou grieve that rest is come at last?
Rather rejoice to see me shake off life,
And die, as I have liv'd, thy faithful wife.

Female Worthies.

MONTAGUE (LADY MARY); died 1762; *Daughter of the first Duke of Kingston*;

WAS the introducer of inoculation for the small-pox,

pox, in this kingdom, the usefulness of which method has been proved by experience, since it is found that one in seven die of the small-pox in the natural way, and one in 312 by inoculation. The lives saved by it, in a million, are computed to be 139652. This practice she had observed in Turkey, where she accompanied her husband, Wortley Montague, Esq. who, in the beginning of the last century, was sent ambassador to Constantinople. Her letters (the authenticity and faithfulness of which have been lately disputed) describing her travels on this occasion, have ever been in universal esteem. She cultivated the belles lettres, particularly poetry, and formed an intimate acquaintance with the eminent wits of that age, particularly Addison and Pope: the latter of whom made some verses upon her; beginning with,

“In beauty or wit,
No mortal as yet
To question your empire has dared,
But men of discerning,
Have thought that, in learning,
To yield to a female was hard.”

She however afterwards became his bitter enemy, on account of some satires he had thrown out on her gallantry, in his writings.

MONTAGUE (MRS.) *died at her House, in Portman-Square, 1800, at an advanced Age.*

THE education of this lady was superintended by her relation, the celebrated Conyers Middleton, and she gave early testimonies of taste and genius. Her *Essay*, in vindication of the morality of Shakespeare's drama,

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ma, against the criticisms of Voltaire, has always been highly esteemed. Mrs. Montague's society comprized the most respectable of the literati, in all ranks of life. She wrote the three last *Dialogues of the Dead*, which were published by Lord Lyttleton, and have been considered as some of the best. Her Letters are highly extolled for their wit and vivacity. In private life, her benevolence was unbounded—one instance of it, that of her annual dinner to the chimney sweepers, a forlorn and unfriended race, deserves to be commemorated.

Mrs. Montague was the eldest daughter of Sir Septimus Robinson, Knt. in East Kent; sister of Lord Rokeby, and of Mrs. Scott, who died in 1795, having written several popular novels.

Monthly Visitor, &c.

MONTEGUT (MADAME DE), *Daughter of a Nobleman in Languedoc; married, at the age of 16, Monsieur Montégut, Treasurer of France.*

HER manners were captivating; she excelled in all the fine accomplishments, and was perfect mistress of the Latin, English, Italian and Spanish languages. She composed a great number of pieces of poetry, which were crowned with success at the Academy des Jeux Floraux. She translated the *Odes* of Horace, and Pope's *Eclogues*: her other compositions are, *Une Ode sur le Printems; une Elégie sur la Conversion de Sainte Madeleine; une Idylle sur la Mort de Mademoiselle de Catelan; une Elégie sur la Coupe d'un Bois.* There was also found, after her death, some very elegant poems.

Mrs. Thicknesse.

MON-

MONTENAI (GEORGETTE DE), *a Huguenôt of knowledge and beauty, maid of honour to Jane d' Albret, Queen of Navarre.*

SHE composed a hundred emblems or devices, explained by eight lines, which she dedicated to her mistress, and which were published 1571.

F. C.

MONTESPAN (MADAME DE) *a French Lady, Wife of the Marquis of Montespan, and Mistress to Lewis XIV.*

HER maiden name was Athenais de Mortimar, and herself, two sisters, and a brother the duke of Vivonne, a marshal of France, were universally agreeable for a turn of conversation, a mixture of pleasantry, ease, and elegance, so peculiar, that it was customary to call it the spirit of the Mortimars. This lady, by her wit and beauty gained the ascendant over that monarch, in the year 1669; not, however, without the highest indignation of the marquis her husband, who not content with reproaching, could not forbear striking her; and this even in the very palace, where her outcries raised such an alarm, that they were instantly surrounded with persons of the first quality, among whom was the queen. The king, incensed at this behaviour, forbade the marquis to appear at court; and afterwards banished him to his own estate; and thus was obliged to declare almost publicly, the passion he had hitherto been very desirous to conceal. Montespan found in the Pyrenean mountains few friends, but many creditors; and at length his resentment subsided, and he condescended to receive recompences from the court for his honour; a hundred thousand crowns purchased his silence. The king, however, could not help secretly

secretly condemning himself for his passion for a married woman: ‘ Henry IV,’ he often said, ‘ attempted the honour of a princess, whose husband might have defended her with his sword; but mine is an easy conquest over one, whom I can annihilate by a single glance.’

Madame de Montespan, being thus rid of her husband, and relying on her charms, as well as her children, for the continuance of the king’s affection, began to shew her power and ascendancy in public affairs. She accompanied the king to Flanders in the year 1670, when the ruin of the Dutch was consulted in the midst of pleasure. In the mean time, she endeavoured to reconcile imperious vice with humble piety; and formed a set of morals herself, too loose for a christian, too severe for a mistress. She condescended even to work for the poor; and persuaded herself, that frequent alms, and external acts of devotion, must necessarily entitle her to the pardon of all her sins. And presumed to receive the holy sacrament. One day she endeavoured to obtain absolution from a curate, in a country village, who had been recommended to her on account of his flexibility. “ What!” said this man of God, “ are you that marchioness of Montespan, whose crimes are an offence to the whole kingdom? Good madam, renounce your wicked habits, and then come to this awful tribunal.” She instantly complained to the king of the insult she had received, and demanded justice on the confessor. The king was not sure that his power extended so far, and therefore consulted Bossuet, preceptor to the dauphin, the bishop of Condom, and the duke de Montausiar, his governor. The bishop and minister both supported the curate, and took this occasion to try if they could detach the king from this lady.

lady. The contest was for some time doubtful; but she at last prevailed.

This happened in the year 1673; but in 1675 she retired from court, and, though not long absent, yet was not able, by all the methods her invention could suggest, to recover the king's affections, who was now wholly devoted to madame de Maintenon. She however came back to court, where she had an important employment, namely, the superintendance of the queen's household; and still preserved some interest with the king, by her children, by habit, and long established interest. Friendship and respect continued to be shewn her; she had no professed rival; yet she found herself treated with great coldness and indifference, and while Madame de Maintenon was increasing and de Montespan declining in the royal favour, they saw each other every day; sometimes with a secret bitterness, at other times with a transient confidence, which the necessity of speaking, and the weariness of constraint, rendered unavoidable. They agreed each of them to write memoirs of all that passed at court; but the work was not carried to any great length. Madame de Montespan, in the last years of her life, used to divert herself and her friends, by reading some passages out of these memoirs. In the mean time, devotion, which mingled itself with all these intrigues, confirmed Madame de Maintenon in favour, and removed her to an absolute distance. This lasted till 1685, when Madame de Mantes, the king's daughter by Madame de Montespan, married the grandson of the great Condé. After this, the king married two other children he had by her, Madame de Blois, to the duke de Chartres, and Louisa-Benedicta to the duke de Maine. Madame de Montespan, after the

marriage of her daughters, appeared no more at court, but lived in great splendor at Paris. She had a large revenue, though only for life. The king payed her 1000 louis d'ors a month. Every year she went to drink the waters of Bourbon, where she married the girls about the place, and gave them portions. Though no longer at court, she still practised the vices she had been used to, luxury, caprice, distrust, and ambition. La Bruyere painted her, in his *Characters*, as still adorning her beauty, contemplating with pleasure its precious remains, and at 60 years of age, asking her physicians, 'Why those wrinkles in her face, that stomach so weak, that peevishness of temper, and perpetual lassitude?' She died at Bourbon, in the year 1717. She is said to have written letters equal to those of Madame de Sevigné.

Female Worthies.

MONTMART (MARY MAGDALEN GABRIELLE)

a Benedictine Nun, Daughter of the Duke of Montmart.

IN her childhood made herself mistress of Spanish, Italian, and Greek. At the age of fifteen, she was presented to Maria Theresa, when that princess arrived at Paris, and was much admired by the whole court for her eloquence and facility in speaking Spanish. She was intimately acquainted with ancient and modern philosophy and theology; signalized herself in some highly celebrated translations; and employed her pen on morality, criticism, and natural philosophy. Her letters were esteemed such a treasure, that Lewis XIV. always expressed great pleasure at receiving any. Her poems are said to have been

few, but beautiful; and those, after once reading to her friends, she committed to the flames. She was chosen abbess-general of the congregation of Fontevrard, which presides over a great number of monasteries, and counted among its abbesses 14 princesses, five of the house of Bourbon. This high office she discharged with great ability.

Father Feejoo.

MONTPENSIER (ANNA-MARIA LOUISA), of Orleans; known by the Name of Mademoiselle; born 1627, at Paris; died 1793.

BEING deprived of her father and mother, who both left France while she was an infant, she was brought up under the care of the queen, her grandmother, who appointed Madame de Saint George (a woman of great learning) to be her governess.

Mademoiselle wrote her memoirs in 6 vols; in which she has not only related every circumstance relative to the intrigues of the court and parliament, but of her own life, in which are many things very remarkable. She was a woman of good parts, quick discernment, of a majestic appearance, haughty, and imperious. Her turn for military exercises was an extraordinary part of her character. At the time when disputes ran high at the court of France, the town of Orleans (which belonged to the duke her father) was just upon the point of submitting to the king's party, of which Mademoiselle de Montpensier was no sooner informed, than she set out immediately from Paris, - marched *in person* at the head of a small number of troops, and forced the inhabitants, not only to open their gates, but to join with the parliament,

parliament, the side her father espoused. It certainly appears a little extraordinary, that this princess should join against her sovereign, whose grandmother had taken such tender care of her; but it must be observed, that the queen regent had probably provoked her to this act; she having publicly reproved her negotiating a marriage secretly with the archduke; for when the queen was informed of it, she ordered her to appear in the council chamber, and there reprimanded her with great warmth, which did not a little mortify Mademoiselle de Montpensier, who was ready to burst with indignation and resentment. Her pride was too great to submit quietly to such reproaches; besides the disappointment of not following her own inclinations, in a matter where her happiness was concerned. This, perhaps, was the true reason why she sided with the parliament, in opposition to the court. After this, however, she returned to Paris, and from thence to Estampes, where she reviewed the troops both of the parliament and of the prince de Condé, in person, and immediately after gave battle to Marshal Turenne, who commanded the king's party and who gained a considerable victory over the troops of which this heroic princess was at the head. This was a blow which greatly disconcerted and chagrined mademoiselle, who endeavoured to gain the Spaniards over to her interest; and her success in this respect was equal to her wishes; for she once more advanced at the head of 6000 Spaniards, and encamped close to one of the city gates, called la Porte St. Antoine, while the king's troops defended the city. Mademoiselle de Montpensier, at the head of hers, ascended the Bastille, and turning against them their own cannon, which were placed upon the

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ramparts,

ramparts, drove back the enemy, and entered Paris. But this victory was not all attributed to the prowess of the victorious princess ; it was imagined, that some secret manœuvres were carried on by certain persons on the enemy's side, who wished to flatter her vanity, and give her the honour of gaining the victory. But in spite of all her success, she was at last obliged to submit, and banished to her estate at St. Fargeau, where she spent some years with much discontent, not only upon account of being disgraced at court, but from some disagreeable circumstances arising between her and her father, on the subject of her mother's property, part of which she was entitled to from the time of her being of age. But this and other matters were at last accommodated to the satisfaction of all parties; and Mademoiselle de Montpensier returned once more to court and was well received. At the age of 44, after refusing many princes, she married Lauzun, a private gentleman, who behaved very unworthily. It is related, that one day being returned from the chase, he called out, " Henrietta Bourbon, come, draw off my boots:" upon her exclaiming on the cruelty of his behaviour to her, he made an effort to strike her with his foot; upon which she once more assumed that authority which her birth intitled her to, and which was so natural to her disposition, and immediately forbade his ever more appearing in her presence. Though she had resolution to discard him, his unworthy conduct seems to have made a deep impression on her heart. Her life, indeed, seems to have been only a scene of mortification and disappointment, belying all the promises which birth, fortune, and connections seemed to promise. However, as misfortunes perhaps are ultimately

mately for our benefit, they wrought one good effect on the mind of Mademoiselle de Montpensier, which seems to have lost latterly a great part of that pride and self-importance which disfigured her early years.

She wrote her own character, as is the fashion with the female writers of France; and it seems to be done with modesty and ingenuousness. Her figure she describes as good, though not fine; an open countenance, a long face, large aquiline nose, fine ash-coloured hair, and light blue eyes. Of her mind she speaks more diffusely: amongst other things, she says, "I talk a great deal, without saying any thing silly, making use of vulgar phrases, or uncouth words. I never speak upon any subject I do not perfectly understand, which many people are guilty of, who love to hear themselves talk, and who, possessing too good an opinion of themselves, are very apt to despise the understanding of others.

"I pique myself on nothing so much as being a real and steady friend. Nothing can equal my fidelity towards those whom I have professed to love; would to God I had found others who had felt the same for me?

"I am delighted with confidence, and secret to excess. I am a dangerous enemy; as I resent highly, and do not easily pardon; but I possess also a noble mind, and am incapable of any base action.

"I love the conversation of men of sense, but am not weary with such as are not entertaining in their discourse; as my quality lays some restraint on those who are with me, I am seldom offended, though not always amused.

“ I converse with pleasure on the subject of war; for I possess great personal courage, and have also much ambition.

“ I feel so much indifference for some things in the world, so much contempt for others, and so good an opinion of myself, that I would rather chuse to pass the remainder of my life in solitude, than lay the least constraint upon my humour, even were it of the highest advantage to my fortune.’

“ I love best to be alone.

“ I have no great complaisance, though I expect a great deal. I love to irritate and provoke, though I sometimes can oblige.

“ I did love dancing; I hate cards, love games of exercise, can work all kinds of needlework, and am very fond of riding on horseback.

“ I am no comedian; yet I am so much mistress of my looks and actions, as not to discover any thing I do not chuse those about me should perceive.

“ I am naturally suspicious and distrustful. I love order, even in the least article.

“ I love pomp and magnificence, and give generously to men of merit, and those whom I love; but as I am entirely guided by my fancy, I do not know whether that is to be called liberality; however, when I do any thing of that kind, I love to do it in the handsomest manner I am able.

“ I have no inclination for gallantry; for, I confess, I do not possess any great tenderness of soul: I am more sensible to friendship than love.”

From these extracts we may suppose her greatest faults, pride and impatience, were partly owing to her situation in early life and to succeeding disappointment, there is much perhaps to blame, but nothing

to awaken dislike, and when she speaks of her sufferings in the following manner we must pity and be grieved for her.

“ The great vexations and chagrins I have suffered would have been sufficient to have killed almost any other than myself; but God has been infinitely merciful and good, to give me sufficient strength, to enable me to sustain the miseries which it has been his will to allot me: nothing discourages, dejects or fatigues me. I am not devout, but sincerely wish I could be so. Though I feel the utmost indifference for the world, I fear I do not sufficiently despise it to detach myself altogether from it; since I do not enter myself into the number of those who shew their contempt by quitting it.”

Besides her *Memoirs*, in 8 vols. She left a collection of *Portraits*, of the king, queen, and other persons of the court; two romances, entitled *La Relation de l'Isle Imaginaire*, and *La Princesse de Paphlagonie*. They are full of taste and delicate criticism. Cyrus, in the latter, is M. the prince, who died 1686; and the queen of the Amazons, Mlle. de Montpensier. She wrote also two books of devotion.

Mrs. Thicknesse, &c.

MORATA (OLYMPIA FULVIA) *born at Ferrara,*
1526.

HER father taught polite literature in several cities of Italy; and the report of his great merit advanced him to be preceptor to the young princes of Ferrara, sons of Alphonso I. Having discovered an uncommon capacity and inclination to learning in his daughter, he was induced to cultivate it; and she soon made
such

such a progress, as astonished all about her. The princess of Ferrara being at that time studying polite literature, it was judged proper that she should have a companion in the same pursuit, in order to excite emulation. Morata being deemed properly qualified for the purpose, was sent for to court; where she was heard, to the amazement of her auditors, to declaim in Latin, speak Greek, explain the paradoxes of Cicero, and answer any questions that were put to her. Her father dying, and her mother being an invalid, she was obliged to return home, in order to take care of the family affairs, and the education of three sisters and a brother; both which she executed with great applause. Another cause of her removal from court, was said to be a disgust she had some how given the duchess of Ferrara, though on what account is not said. In the mean time, a young German, named Andreas Grunthler, who had studied physic, and taken his doctor's degree at Ferrara, fell in love with her, and married her. With him she went to Germany, and took her little brother with her, whom she carefully instructed in the Latin and Greek languages. They arrived at Augsburgh in 1548; and after a short stay there went to Schweinfurt in Franconia, which was the birth-place of Grunthler. They had not been there long before Schweinfurt was besieged and burnt; but they escaped with their lives, and fled in the utmost distress to Hammelburgh. But even here they were not suffered to make any long stay, and were driven to extremity, when the elector palatine invited Grunthler to be professor of physic at Heidelberg. He entered upon this employment in 1554, thought himself well settled, and began to enjoy life; when Morata was seized with an illness occasioned by the
distresses

distresses and hardships they had undergone, of which after a lingering illness for some months, she died 1555, in the 29th year of her age. She died in the protestant religion, which she embraced on her coming into Germany. She taught French and Latin publicly, and wrote several books, a great part of which were burnt with the town of Schweinfurt. The remainder were collected by Cælius Secundus Curio, and published at Basil, 1558. Her works consist of orations, dialogues, letters, and translations.

Female Worthies.

MORE (MARGARET), *Daughter of Sir Thomas More.*

A VERY learned and accomplished woman, who understood well the Latin and Greek tongues. She wrote a Treatise on the *Four last Things*. She married a gentleman of the name of Roper, and died in 1544. She comforted her father, during his captivity, and purchased his head of the executioner, which she preserved carefully, and it was buried with her, at St. Dunstan's church, in Canterbury.

MORELLA (JULIANA), *a Native of Barcelona.*

HER father being obliged to quit Spain for a homicide, fled to Lyons, in France, where he cultivated, with much care, the genius of his daughter, who, at the age of twelve, in 1607, publickly maintained theses in philosophy, which she dedicated to Margaret of Austria, queen of Spain. Guy Patin says, that in her 10th year, she held a public disputation, in the Jesuit's college,

college, at Lyons. She is said to have been profoundly skilled in philosophy, divinity, music, and jurisprudence ; besides speaking fourteen languages. She entered into the convent of St. Praxedis, at Avignon.

Father Feejoo.

MOTTEVILLE (FRANCES-BERTAUD, DAME DE), *a celebrated French Lady ; born 1615 ; died 1689, leaving a very agreeable Work, under the Title of Mémoires pour servir à l'Histoire d'Anne d'Austria, 5 vols. 12mo.*

HER mother having been in Italy and Spain, she spoke those languages with great facility, and was therefore honoured with the friendship and confidence of that princess, of which her daughter in some measure partook ; but being involved in the disgrace of her mother, with all Anne's favourites, she retired into Normandy, and was married to Nicholas l'Anglois, president de Motteville ; but became a widow in two years after. As soon as the queen became regent, she recalled her. Madame de Motteville was much attached to this princess, and Henrietta, the exiled queen of England. Her memoirs contain many remarkable events, and are a faithful picture of the actions and sentiments of the former ; the stile of Madame de Motteville is prolix and often obscure. She has introduced a number of moral reflections, which are now very common ; but they shew great learning and observation.

She had always had a devotional turn of mind ; and after the death of the queen-mother, wrote many pious treatises, and retired from the world.

MURAT

MURAT (HENRIETTA JULIA DE CASTELNAU, COUNTESS DE)

WAS well known in the world of gallantry, and wrote memoirs of her own life: a little romance, called *Les Lutins de Kemosi*; another romance; *Des Contes des Fées*; *le Voyage de Campagne*; and *le Comte de Dunois*, attributed falsely to M. de Villedieu. She wrote also several little poems.

F. C. &c.

MUSEA,

AN ancient lyric and epigrammatic poetess; whose epigrams and lyric poems are mentioned by Cælius Rodiginus.

Female Worthies.

MUSNIER (ANN).

“ I do not know,” says St. Foix, “ a more flattering or finer title to nobility, than that which the descendants of Ann Musnier produced, at the reformation. Three men, whilst they were waiting in an alley of the count of Champaign’s garden, for that prince’s rising, consulted together upon a plot they had laid for assassinating him. Ann Musnier, who was concealed behind a tree, overheard part of their conversation: seeing them withdraw, shocked at the thoughts of a design against her prince’s life, and fearful perhaps that she should not have time enough to acquaint him of it, she called out from the other end of the walk, and beckoned to them as if she wanted to speak with them. One of them advancing towards her, she stabbed him with a large kitchen knife, and he fell at her feet: she then defended herself

self against the other two, and received several wounds.

By this time people came to her assistance; and in searching these villains, there were found upon them presumptive proofs of a conspiracy. They confessed the whole, when put to the torture, and were quartered. Ann Musnier, Gerard de Langres her husband, and their descendants, were ennobled.

MYRO, *a Byzantine elegiac Poetess, whose Mnemosyne is mentioned by Athenæus.*

WRITTEN by the same Myro most probably (for Suidas mentions two of that name) are those various poems in elegiac verse, taken notice of by Pausanias, in his *Bæotics*. She is said to have been the wife of Con-
dromachus, the philosopher.

Female Worthies.

MYRTIS.

A GRECIAN woman, eminent for her poetical talents, who taught Corinna, of Thebes, the art of writing verses. She lived a little before Pindar, and some fragments of her poems may be found with those of Anyta.

L'Advocat's Dict.

N.

NEMOURS (MARY D'ORLEANS LONGUEVILLE, DUCHESS OF), *Sovereign Countess of Neufchatel and Valengin; born 1624; died 1707.*

SHE was married very young to the duke de Nemours,

mours, and by this alliance two of the first families in France were united. In the troubles of the minority of Lewis XIV, her father, M. de Longueville, was of the party of the princes of the blood; but she exerted herself only to conciliate the spirits of each, making a particular study of the divers interests of the king's party and that of the *Frondeurs*; from which she afterwards detached her father. Her memoirs of this unhappy time are written with great impartiality, and shew her discernment, wisdom, and piety. They may be found in several editions of *Joly's Memoirs*, and separately, 12mo.

F. C. &c.

NEUBERGERA (ANNA FELICITA), *Daughter of Daniel d'Augusta, who was her Master.*

IN oil, gum, and with wax, formed pictures and admirable figures, cut histories in little nuts, &c.

Abec. Pitt.

NEWCASTLE (MARGARET, DUCHESS OF), *younger Daughter of Sir Charles Lucas; born at St. John's, near Colchester, in Essex, about 1625.*

HER mother took the utmost care in the education of her daughters, and instructed them in all polite accomplishments, such as needlework, dancing, music, and the French tongue. She was herself a woman of an excellent character, which this daughter did justice to in her writings afterwards; who from her infancy discovered a natural propensity to learning, and spent much time in study and writing.

In 1643, she obtained leave of her mother to go
to

to Oxford, where the court then resided, and became maid of honour to Henrietta Maria, the consort of king Charles I. When the queen was obliged by the unhappy situation of the king's affairs, to retire to France, she attended her thither to Paris, and became acquainted with the marquis of Newcastle, then a widower, who married her in 1645. From Paris they went to Rotterdam, and from thence to Antwerp, where they settled and remained during the time of exile, enjoying quietly the remnant of their broken fortunes. That she proved a very agreeable companion to the marquis, the many compliments he made to her sufficiently testify.

Being greatly distressed for want of money, and by debts contracted there, she came to England, in order to obtain some of his rents, and accordingly went with lord Lucas her brother to Goldsmith's hall, but could not procure a grant to receive one penny of the marquis's vast estate; and had they not been relieved by the generosity of Sir Charles Cavendish, his brother, they must have been reduced to extreme poverty. Having got a considerable sum from her own and his relations, she returned to Antwerp, where they continued till the restoration of king Charles II. This opportunity the marquis laid hold of to return to his native country, after sixteen years banishment from it; leaving his lady at Antwerp to dispatch his affairs there; which having done, she soon followed him into England, where she spent the remainder of her life in composing and writing letters, plays, poems, philosophical discourses, and orations. Mr. Giles Jacob says, she was the most voluminous writer of our female poets; that she had a great deal of wit, and a more than ordinary propensity to dramatic poetry. Mr. Lang-

horn

horn tells us, that all the language and plots of her plays were her own, which will atone for some faults in her numerous productions.

In her person she was graceful and noble; in her temper, shy and reserved; in her studies, contemplations, and writings, indefatigable; she was truly pious, generous, and charitable; an excellent œconomist, kind to her servants, and a perfect pattern of conjugal love and duty.

She died in London, 1673; and was buried in Westminster-Abbey, where a monument was erected to her memory, containing that eulogium on the Lucas's noticed by the Spectator. "A noble family; for all the brothers were valiant, and all the sisters virtuous."

A considerable strength of imagination, with much ease and clearness of diction, and in general a smoothness of versification, unusual in those times, appears to characterise her poetical compositions. Milton is said to have borrowed from the compositions of the duchess, particularly in *Il Penseroso*.

Having asked bishop Wilkins, "How she could get up to the world in the moon he had discovered; for, as the journey must needs be very long, there would be no possibility of going through it, without resting on the way?" "Oh, madam," said the bishop, "*your grace has built so many castles in the air, that you cannot want a place.*"

Female Worthies, &c.

NITHSDALE (WINIFRED, COUNTESS OF),

Who was the instrument of the earl's escape from the Tower in 1716, which was effected solely by her uncommon

uncommon exertions and fortitude, by which she also preserved the family estate for her son.

On hearing that he was committed, and of his great anxiety to see her, she came to London, at a time when the snow was so deep that the stage could not set out and the roads were so extremely bad that the post itself was stopt.

On her arrival, she tried to make all the interest she could with those in place; but no hopes were given her. The earl was particularly obnoxious. A Roman catholic, upon the frontiers of Scotland, who headed a very considerable party, and whose family had always signalized itself by its attachment to the house of Stuart; it was not likely he should meet with mercy, and she determined if possible to effect his escape, communicating her intentions to a female friend only, whose fortitude and good sense seems equal to her own. In order to concert measures, she solicited to see him; but, it was denied her, except she would consent to remain a prisoner with him. This she did not do; but, by bribing the guards, she contrived to see him, till the day on which the prisoners were condemned, when their friends were allowed for the last week to see and take their leave.

While she was assiduous in getting her noble friends to present petitions on his behalf to the king, she planned his escape; but, fearful of endangering her (for a wife who assists her husband's escape, in the case of high treason, is amenable to the laws) he was unwilling, and hesitated for a while; but her confidence in providence perhaps communicated itself to him, for he at length consented. And she delivered him from confinement the night before execution, by making him pass for a lady she had brought with her, whose
size

size and figure were nearly answerable to his, and who hardly knew what she was doing when she consented to it; as, fearful of her repenting the part she had to act, the countess kept her constantly talking and engaged from the time of her proposing it till its completion. She did not, however, leave her in his cell; but by unequalled ingenuity and presence of mind managed the whole business, so that no one was implicated or suspected but herself. He was concealed in a mean lodging till Saturday night (his liberation took place only on the Thursday, 22d Feb.) when he was conducted to the Venetian ambassador's, in great secrecy, his excellency even not knowing any thing of the matter; but one of his servants concealed him in his own room till Wednesday, on which day the ambassador's coach and six was to go down to Dover to meet his brother. Lord Nithsdale put on a livery, and went down in the retinue, without the least suspicion, to Dover, where Mr. Mitchel, the ambassador's servant, who had concealed him, hired a small vessel, and immediately set sail for Calais. The passage was short and prosperous. She was concluded to have gone off with her lord, but remained concealed in town till assured of her husband's safe arrival on the continent. She then, through her friends, solicited leave to go in safety about her business, alledging that a bare suspicion of her being instrumental to her husband's preservation ought not to be grounds of punishment. But they were resolved to secure her; after several debates, however, she was given to understand, that if she remained concealed, no farther search should be made after her; but if she appeared either in England or Scotland, she should be secured. "But," says she, emphatically, "this was not suffi-

cient for me, unless I could submit to expose my son to beggary. My lord had sent for me up to town in such haste that I had no time to settle any thing before I left Scotland. I had in my hands all the family papers: I dared trust them to nobody. My house might have been searched without warning, consequently they were far from being secure there. In this distress, I had the precaution to bury them under ground; and nobody but the gardener and myself knew where they were. I did the same with other things of value. The event proved I had acted prudently; for after my departure they searched the house, and God knows what might have transpired from these papers."

Through a road where she was well known, in fear of being arrested, she travelled, thinking, as she had hazarded her life once for her husband, she could do no less for her son. She managed every thing with her accustomed prudence, got undiscovered to Traquair, where she gave out that she was going, by order of government, to her own house. She went to her own house, took up her papers at night, and sent them off to Traquair; and hearing that the magistrates of Dumfries had said they were determined to see her leave from government the next day, she appeared to wonder they had not come before; but got every thing in readiness, and the next morning before day-break set off for London on horseback, putting up at the small inns as before, and arrived there safe.

On her arrival, the report was still fresh of her journey to Scotland in defiance of prohibition. The king was extremely incensed at the news, and issued orders for having her arrested; saying, that she did whatever she pleased in despite of his desires: and had given him more
anxiety

anxiety and trouble than any woman in Europe. She kept herself therefore concealed till they had left off searching; and, about a fortnight after, made her escape without any accident to her husband.

Transactions of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. vol. I.

NITOCRIS, *the Wife of Evil Merodac, King of Babylon, who from his great wickedness was murdered in 559, B. C.*

NEROGLISSAR and **Labarosoarchad** usurped the throne. But in 555, **Nabonidas** and **Belshazzar** began to reign. This last was the son of **Evil Merodac** and **Nitocris**, and grandson of **Nebuchadnezzar**: he was an impious and pleasure loving prince, neglecting his subjects and kingdom; but **Nitocris**, a woman of great understanding and masculine spirit, took the main burden of the government upon herself; and whilst her son was following his pleasures, exerted her utmost effort to preserve the state. **Herodotus** ascribes to her the construction of the bridge, river banks, and artificial lake, for the preservation of the city from the overflowing of the **Euphrates**. Most probably she only completed the unfinished work of **Nebuchadnezzar**. Whilst the river was turned, for thus finishing its banks, and the walls of the city, she caused a wonderful vault or gallery to be made underneath it, leading from the old palace to the new, 12 feet high and 15 wide; and having covered it with a strong arch, and over that a layer of bitumen 6 feet thick, she turned the river again over it; for, as it is the nature of that bitumen to petrify when water comes over it, and become as hard as

stone, it preserved the vaulted gallery from being penetrated by the water. This preserved the communication of the two palaces, between which the river flowed, both of them being strongly fortified; that, in case one of them should be taken, the other might serve to escape unto. A necessary precaution, as the Babylonian empire had been some time before invaded by the united forces of Cyaxares and Cyrus; though they proved in vain, the city being taken by surprize, on the night of an annual festival. God at that time manifesting his vengeance in an extraordinary manner, by sending a miracle to denounce the fall of the empire. The king and nobles, banqueting in the palace, saw the appearance of a hand writing an unknown sentence on the wall. Struck with terror, they sent for the wise men, magicians, and astrologers, but none of them could explain the writing and appearance. Nitocris, hearing of the matter, went to the banqueting house, and informed the king of the wisdom of Daniel; for though Daniel was unknown to the king, Nitocris, holding the regency of the kingdom during his minority, had constantly employed him in public affairs, and knew him well; and though Belshazzar had then reigned 17 years, he had been so immersed in pleasure, as entirely to have left the welfare and direction of the nation to his mother, whose superior wisdom eminently fitted her for that high station, and she certainly did the utmost to save the state from ruin. Her name was for some time after so great in the East, that Herodotus speaks of her as sovereign, in the same manner as Semiramis.

Prideaux's Connections.

NITO-

NITOCRIS, *Queen of Egypt and Ethiopia,*

REIGNED, it is said, with greater glory than any of the kings her predecessors; one of the pyramids is supposed to have been raised to her memory.

F. C.

NOGAROLE (ISOTTA), *a Lady of Verona, of a Family celebrated for the Wisdom, Piety, and Beauty of its Women; died 1466, aged 38.*

SHE was a great philosopher and divine, mistress of several languages, and of an eloquence surpassing all the orators of Italy. She made a most elaborate speech at the council of Mantua, convened by Pope Pius II. that all Christian princes might enter into a league against the Turks, she wrote eloquent epistles not only to him, but to his predecessor Nicholas V., and a *Dialogue*, in which was disputed which was most guilty, Adam or Eve. Some of her works coming to the sight of Cardinal Bessarion, that illustrious patron of literature was so taken with her genius, that he made a journey from Rome to Verona, purely to pay her a visit. It is to be regretted, that 566 MS. Letters of her's upon different subjects, which a modern author affirmed he saw in the library of de Thou, are now supposed to be lost.

Father Feejoo, &c.

NORTON (LADY FRANCES), *born about the middle of the last century, was descended from the ancient family of the Frekes, in Dorsetshire.*

SHE seems by her writings to have been educated
in

in the knowledge of the Greek and Latin tongues. She married first Sir George Norton, knt. of Abbots Leigh, in Somersetshire, by whom she had three children, George and Elizabeth, who died young; and Grace, a lady of uncommon abilities, who married Sir Richard Gethin, and died in the flower of her age (*See her Life*) to the inexpressible grief of her mother. To alleviate her sorrow on this occasion, lady Norton wrote two books with the following titles. *The Applause of Virtue*. In four parts, published in 1703. This treatise she dedicated to her cousin, madam Freke of Shroten. Also *Memento Mori; Meditations on Death*; which she dedicated to her cousin the hon. Mrs. Elizabeth Hamilton. These pious treatises are an abundant proof of her learning, and how well read she was in the primitive fathers, philosophers, &c. which she perpetually quotes to elucidate her subject; nor are they less demonstrative of her good sense, and exalted piety.

It is said, that there are still remaining at Abbots Leigh, several pieces of furniture of her own working, with many devout sentences wrought in them; many were excellent and seasonable admonitions, which she gave to her friends and acquaintance. Among others the following are remembered: "Prayer is the great duty and greatest privilege of a christian; it is his intercourse with God, a petitioning for such things as we need for our support; it is an abstract, or summary of the christian religion, and divine worship, confessing God's power and mercy; it celebrates his attributes, confesseth his glory, reveres his person, implores his aid, and gives thanks for his blessings: it is an act of charity, for it prays for others; it is an act of repentance, when it
confes-

confesseth and begs pardon for our sins, and exercises our grace according to the design of the man, and the manner of the prayer. In praying we imitate the employment of angels and beatified spirits, by which we ascend to God in spirit while we remain on earth. We speak to God in prayer: when the tongue is stiffened with the approachings of death, prayer can dwell in the heart or the eye, by a thought or groan; prayer, of all actions of religion, is the last alive, and it serves God without circumstances and exercises material to the last breath." Nor were her discourses on other religious subjects less sensible and affecting. She would say, "The quintessence of all wisdom is to prepare for death; it is the business we should learn all our lives to exercise; the faults therein committed are irreparable, and the loss without recovery; we should no more confide in the prosperity of the world than to a still sea, which in a great calm oft-times presageth the approaching tempest; to declare, that in good we should live in distrust of ill; and in evil in hope of good; but in both the one and the other ever in equality." She married secondly Colonel Norton, and thirdly Mr. Jones, and was living in 1720.

Female Worthies.

O.

OCTAVIA, *Daughter to Caius Octavius, and Sister of Augustus Cæsar, was married first to Claudius Marcellus, who was Consul in the year 50 B. C.*

SHE had by him two children, a boy and a girl, before
his

his death, which happened a little before the war of Perusia, when he left her pregnant with a third. By the Roman laws, widows were forbid to marry within ten months after their husbands decease. This statute, however, Octavia was exempted from by a decree of the senate. The public welfare required it. The people of Rome had but too great cause to fear, that Marc Antony and Augustus would quarrel, and so prolong the civil war, if not prevented by some powerful mediator. Antony was then a widower, and nothing promised so fair for compassing such a happy event, as his marriage with Octavia. All imaginable dispatch was therefore used to bring it to a conclusion, which was done even before the lady was brought to bed. It was the general persuasion that Octavia, whose exquisite beauty was heightened by gravity and prudence, would be the means of a most happy and lasting peace. Their nuptials were solemnized, in 714.

Three years after this, peace was concluded with Pompey's son. Augustus continued in Italy, and Antony went with Octavia into Greece. The winter he spent with her at Athens; and being exasperated by some false report against Augustus, set sail for Italy; and being refused admittance into the harbour of Brundisium, he went ashore at Tarentum, and sent Octavia to Augustus. She met her brother by the way, and had a conference with him and his friends Agrippa and Mecænas; when she conjured him, in the most pathetic terms, not to let her, from being the most happy of her sex, become the most wretched. "For now," says she, "the whole world looks upon me as related to two emperors, to the one as a wife, to the other as a sister; but, if pernicious counsels should prevail, and a war break out, it is uncertain which of
you

you would be the conqueror; but my fate either way, would be miserable. This discourse wrought so powerfully on Cæsar, that he went to Tarentum quite pacified, and the interview between him and Antony was attended with a thousand protestations of inviolable friendship.

Antony returning to the east, left Octavia in Italy. Some time after this, resolving to make him a visit, she set out on her journey for that purpose, but on the road met with letters from him, desiring her to stay at Athens for him, which she accordingly did; but finding it in vain, returned to Rome, and would not be prevailed on to quit his palace, but took the same care of every thing as if he had been the best of husbands. She would by no means consent, that the injurious treatment she met with from Antony should occasion a civil war. In this disposition she remained in the house till she was ordered to leave it by Antony himself, who at the same time sent her a divorce; then indeed she burst into tears, because she saw she should be considered as one of the causes of the war; since Augustus had consented to her going into the east after Antony, in the hopes that she would meet with some signal ill usage from him, which he knew would be considered by the Roman people as a just cause for him to renew the war. The admiration in which they beheld Octavia's glorious conduct in doing all the good offices in her power to her husband's children and friends, without shewing the least resentment for his base usage of her, was of great prejudice to him; and thus, even against her will, she exposed him prodigiously to the animosity of the Romans, who both hated and despised him, when they saw him prefer to her a woman of Cleopatra's abandoned character. His infatuation was the more surprising to those
who

who had seen the latter, as Octavia was infinitely her superior in virtue, wisdom and beauty.

Cleopatra herself, whatever good opinion she might entertain of her own charms, yet dreaded those of Octavia; and therefore had recourse to all possible artifices to prevent her from coming near him. She assured him it would be impossible for her to live if he should abandon her. She represented to him, that it was enough for Octavia to be his lawful wife, whilst she (Cleopatra, queen of so mighty a nation) was content to be called his concubine, which she would yet submit to, provided he did not plunge her into despair by his absence; and, to prevent so fatal a stroke, she attended him at his last overthrow at Actium; though, when she had accompanied him as far as Ephesus, Antony's friends advised him to send her back to Egypt: but she, fearing lest Octavia should once more reconcile her brother with her husband, bribed a man, who persuaded Antony to take her along with him whithersoever he might go.

After Antony's death, 731, fortune seemed to flatter Octavia with the utmost felicity she could expect or desire. The son she had by her first husband was now about twelve years of age, a most accomplished youth, of a chearful disposition, and fine genius. When he was of a proper age, Augustus married him to his own daughter, and considered him as the presumptive heir of the empire. However Octavia had armed herself with fortitude under all the injurious treatment of Antony, yet the loss of this son was infinitely heavier and more insupportable. She sunk under it, and remained ever after inconsolable. Seneca tells us, that she would not allow any body to offer her the least consolation, nor could be prevailed with to take the least diversion. Her whole

whole mind and soul was fixed on this single object, and such was her deportment through the latter part of life, as if she had been at a funeral. She appeared in her weeds before her children and grand children; a circumstance which greatly displeased her family, as if she was totally bereaved, whilst they were living and well.

Seneca likewise adds, that she rejected all poems wrote in honour of Marcellus's memory, and compliments of every kind. This however must be taken with some grains of allowance, at least if the story be true, which has never yet been questioned, that Virgil, reading that admirable eulogium on this youth, in the conclusion of the sixth *Æneid*, to Augustus, when she was with him, they both burst into tears, and Virgil was forced to inform them the book was near ending, otherwise they would not let him go on. It is said, likewise, that Octavia fainted away, at the repetition of those words, *Tu Marcellus eris*: and that it was with the greatest difficulty she was recovered; after which she rewarded the poet with no less than ten sesterces; that is, as some compute it, 78l. 2s. 6d. for each verse, of which there are twenty-six in the whole.

Octavia, according to Dio, died, 744, ten years before Christ, leaving two daughters by Marc Antony, Antonia major, and Antonia minor, the elder married Domitius *Ænobarbus*, and the younger Drusus, brother of *Tiberius*. Octavia's eldest daughter by Marcellus was first married to Agrippa, and afterwards to Antony, youngest son of Marc Antony by Fulvia. It is said that Augustus dedicated a temple and some porticos to the memory of his sister Octavia.

OGINA,

OGINA, *Daughter of Edward the Elder, King of England, and third Wife of Charles the Simple,*

WAS a princess of great merit and a superior genius. After the captivity of her husband, in 922, she sought refuge in the court of her brother Athelstan, with her son Lewis, who from thence was called *Outremer*; and made every possible effort to persuade the Count de Vermandois to set her husband at liberty. She came back in triumph, on the death of Raoul the Norman, their most potent enemy; and it was principally by the succours from England, that this revolution was effected. Ogina herself conducted the army, composed of French and English, to the combat. More worthy to reign than her husband or her son, she revenged the first, established the other on the throne, and restored peace to the kingdom. Till the age of 60, her life had been illustrious; but she tarnished the lustre of her grey hairs, by marrying a young man, second son of the Count de Vermandois, the enemy of her husband, and was despised.

Rivalité de la Fr. & de l'Ang.

OLDFIELD (ANNE), *a celebrated Actress, born in London, 1683.*

HER father was formerly an officer in the guards, and possessed a competent estate; which he spent in extravagance, leaving his family, at his death, unprovided for. In these unhappy circumstances, his widow was forced to live with her sister, who kept a tavern in St. James's market, and the daughter was placed with a sempstress, in King-street, Westminster. In the mean time, Miss Oldfield shewed an extravagant

vagant fondness for reading plays, and was entertaining her relations at the tavern with her talent in this way, when her voice chanced to reach the ear of Capt. George Farquhar, who happened to dine there that day. He immediately perceived something uncommonly sweet in it, and struck with her agreeable person and carriage, instantly pronounced her admirably formed for the stage. This concurring with her own inclination, her mother opened the matter to Sir John Vanbrugh, a friend of the family; who, upon trial, finding her qualifications promising, recommended her to Mr. Rich, then patentee of the king's theatre, who immediately took her into the play-house. However she gave no great hopes of being an accomplished actress till the year 1703, when she first shone out in Leonora in Sir Courtly Nice, and established her theatrical reputation the following year, in that of lady Betty Modish in the Careless Husband.

Near or a little before this time it was, that she engaged the regard and affection of Arthur Maynwaring, Esq; who interested himself greatly in the figure she made on the stage; and it was in some measure owing to the pains he took in improving her natural talents, that she became, as she soon did, the delight and entertainment of the town. This gentleman dying in 1712, she engaged in a like correspondence with brigadier-general Churchill. She had by Mr. Maynwaring one son, and another by the brigadier-general, who afterwards married the lady Anna-Maria Walpole, natural daughter of the earl of Oxford. About the year 1718, Mr. Savage, natural son to the earl of Rivers, being reduced to the extremest necessity, Mrs. Oldfield was so affected with his very singular case, that she allowed him a fixed provision of 50*l.* a year, which was regularly paid as long as she lived.

This

This added to several other tender, humane, and disinterestedly generous actions, together with a distinguished taste in the elegance of dress, conversation, and manners served as a veil to cover her failings. It does not appear she had any love affair, except with the two gentlemen above-mentioned, towards whom she is said to have behaved with all the fidelity, duty and affection of a good wife. She was the darling of the town as long as she lived; and after her death, which happened 1730, her corpse was conveyed to the Jerusalem Chamber, to lie in state, and from thence to Westminster Abbey, the pall being supported by the lord De la Warr, lord Hervey, the right hon. George Bubb Doddington, Charles Hedges, Esq; Walter Carey, Esq; and capt. Elliot; her eldest son, Arthur Maynwaring, Esq; being chief mourner. She was interred toward the west end of the south isle, between the monuments of Mr. Craggs and Mr. Congreve, being elegantly dressed in her coffin, with a very fine Brussels laced head, a holland shift, with a tucker and double ruffles of the same lace, a pair of new kid gloves, and her body wrapt up in a winding sheet. She left the bulk of her substance to Arthur Maynwaring, Esq; from whose father she had received it, yet did not neglect a proper regard to her other son Charles Churchill, and her own relations.

In her person she was of a stature just rising to that height where the graceful can only begin to shew itself; of a lively aspect, and commanding mein. Nature had given her this peculiar happiness, that she looked and maintained the agreeable at a time of life, when other fine women only raise admirers by their understanding. The qualities she had acquired were the genteel and the elegant; the one in her air, and the other in her dress. The Tatler, speaking of her, says, ‘ Whatever character

character she represented, she was always well dressèd. The make of her mind very much contributed to the ornament of her body. This made every thing look native about her; her clothes were so exactly fitted, that every thing appeared, as it were, part of her person. Her most elegant deportment was owing to her manner, and not to her habit. Her beauty was full of attraction, but more of allurements. There was such a composure in her looks, and propriety in her dress, that you would think it impossible she should change the garb you one day saw her in for any thing so becoming, till you next day saw her in another.'

Female Worthies.

OLYMPIA,

A PAINTER, in ancient Greece, of whom we find no other memorial, than that Autobolus was her scholar.

Abec. Pitt.

ORVAL (ANNE-ELEANOR DE BETHUNE D'),
Abbess of Notre Dame du Val-de-Gif, in the Diocese of Paris;

A FRENCH lady, in the reign of Lewis XIV. celebrated for her learning and piety. She wrote many religious works, and died 1733, aged 76.

F. C.

P.

PACHECO (DONNA MARIA), *Wife of Padilla, a young Nobleman, who was at the head of the Confederacy in Castile, during the Minority of Charles V., which was called the Holy Junta, raised to recover those Laws and Liberties the Castilians had always prized so highly.*

ON the ill conduct of one of their generals, they were much discomfited, and in great distress for money. Donna Maria, a woman of noble birth, great abilities, and unbounded ambition, superior to the prejudices of the age, proposed to seize all the rich and magnificent ornaments in the cathedral of Toledo; but lest that action should offend the people, by an appearance of impiety, she and her retinue went to the church in a solemn mourning procession, and implored pardon of the saints, whose shrines she was about to violate. By this artifice, she procured a considerable sum of money for the Junta, without paining the minds of the pious. Their general, the young and generous Padilla, was however taken prisoner, and condemned to death, which he bore with christian magnanimity. He wrote an affectionate letter to his wife, in which he tells her the bitterest pang of death is the grief she will suffer on the occasion: yet he exhorts her to consider it as his deliverance. This blow was fatal to the confederacy.—The city of Toledo alone, animated by Donna Maria, who sought to revenge her husband's death, yet held out. Respect, admiration, and sympathy, secured to her the ascendancy over the people which he had possessed; and the prudence and vigour with which she acted

acted justified this confidence. She wrote to the French general in Navarre, encouraging him to invade Castile: she endeavoured, by her letters and emissaries, to revive the hopes and spirits of other Castilian cities; raised soldiers, and by keeping the death of their beloved general fresh in the minds of the people, by processions, &c. she prevented fear or despondency from acting on their minds. Her enemies in vain tried to undermine her popularity; and, when the city was invested, she defended it with vigour, her troops frequently repulsed the royalists, and no progress was made in reducing the place, till the clergy, whose property she had been forced to invade, ceased to support her. They soon openly deserted her; and persuaded the credulous multitude, impatient of a long blockade, that she had acquired such influence over them by enchantments, and that she was assisted by a familiar demon, in the form of a negro maid. Incensed by these suggestions, they themselves took arms against her, drove her out of the city, and surrendered it to the royalists. She then retired to the citadel, which she defended with amazing fortitude four months longer; and, when reduced to the last extremities, made her escape in disguise, and fled into Portugal, where he had many relations.

Robertson's Charles V.

PAKINGTON (DOROTHY, LADY) *wife of Sir John Pakington, baronet, and daughter of Thomas, lord Coventry, keeper of the great seal, born at London about the middle of the reign of James I.*

ALTHOUGH this excellent lady was celebrated by the best and most learned divines of her time, yet scarce any

pen will be thought capable of adding to the reputation which her own has acquired, if it shall appear, that she was the author of *The whole Duty of Man*.

That the lady Pakington was capable of such a work, and that she only had a right to this in question, we shall produce the following testimonies.

The first witness is, the famous Dr. George Hickes, the vicinity of whose deanery to Westwood, his intimacy in the family, his known probity and unshaken integrity, will make his authority appear beyond all exception. The doctor in his preface to his *Anglo-Saxon and Mæso-Gothic Grammars*, printed before his *Thesaurus*, and inscribed to the late Sir John Pakington, having given an excellent character of his grandfather, proceeds in the following manner in relation to this excellent lady. He writes in Latin, which being translated, runs thus:

‘ But your grandmother, the daughter of the most renowned Thomas lord Coventry, keeper of the great seal, was remarkably illustrious for all virtues, especially such as consist in the practical part of a Christian life. She had moreover an excellent judgment, and a talent of speaking correctly, pertinently, clearly, and gracefully. In which she was so accomplished, particularly in an evenness of stile and consistent manner of writing, that she deserved to be called and reputed the author of a book concerning the *Duty of Man*, published in English by an anonymous person, and well known through the Christian world for the extraordinary completeness of a work of that kind. Hammond, Morley, Fell, and Thomas, those eminently learned men, averred she was as great an adept in the sacred scriptures, as themselves were, and as well versed in divinity, and in all those weighty and useful notions relating to Duty, which have been recommended and handed down to us, either

ther by profane or Christian philosophers. I have heard also, she was so far from being unacquainted with the antiquities of her own country, that she knew almost as much as the greatest proficient in that kind of knowledge. Nor is this to be much wondered at, since she had in her youth the most excellently learned Sir Norton Knatchbull, Bart. for her tutor and preceptor; and, after she was married, the famous Hammond, and others his cotemporaries, very celebrated men, for her companions and instructors.'

He also affirmed that he had seen the manuscript written with her own hand; which from the many erasures, alterations, and interlinings, he was fully satisfied was the very original book.

The next evidence is, the author of the *Baronetage*, who tells us, 'that she was one of the most accomplished persons of her sex for learning; and the brightest example of her age for wisdom and piety. Her letters and other discourses still remaining in the family, and in the hands of her friends, are an admirable proof of her excellent genius and vast capacity; and as she had the reputation of being thought the author of *The whole Duty of Man*, so that none who knew her well, and were competent judges of her ability, could in the least doubt of her being equal to such an undertaking; though her modesty would not suffer her to claim the honour of it; but as the manuscript under her own hand now remains with the family, there is hardly room to doubt it.

'By her great virtues and eminent attainments in knowledge, she acquired the esteem of all our learned divines, particularly Dr. Hammond, bishop Morley, bishop Fell, bishop Pearson, bishop Henchman and bishop Gunning; who were ever ready to confess, they were always edified by her conversation, and instructed

by her writings. These learned and pious gentlemen never failed of an agreeable retreat and sanctuary at Westwood, as far as those dangerous times would permit. And it ought to be remembered to the honour of this good lady and her husband, that the famous Dr. Hammond found a comfortable subsistence in their family several years, and at last reposed his bones in their burial place at Hampton-Lovett, in a chapel built by Sir Thomas Pakington, anno 1561.'

The third proof is taken from a quarto pamphlet, entitled, *A Letter from a Clergyman in the Country, to a dignified Clergyman in London, vindicating the Bill brought in the last Session of Parliament, for preventing the Translation of Bishops. Printed at London, 1702*; in the third and fourth pages of which may be found the following passage: 'But before I enter upon the nature, tendency and usefulness of the bill, give me leave to say something concerning that worthy member, Sir John Pakington, who brought it into the house.

'His zeal for the church and monarchy descend to him, as it were, by inheritance. I must write a history, if I would deliver at large how many proofs his ancestors have given of their being the fastest friends to both: but his grandfather's spending 40,000£, and being tried for his life during the late civil wars, because he vigorously endeavoured to prevent the martyrdom of king Charles I, and the destruction of episcopacy; the uninterrupted correspondence of his grandmother with the learned and pious Dr. Morley, bishop of Winton, and Dr. Hammond, and his supporting the latter when deprived, and who is by several eminent men (archbishop Dolben, bishop Fell, and Dr. Allestry, declared this of their own knowledge after her death, which she obliged them to keep private during her life) allowed to be the
author

author of the best and most masculine religious book extant in the English tongue (the Bible excepted) called *The whole Duty of Man*, will serve instead of a heap of instances, to shew how great regards this family have formerly paid to the church and kingly government.'

To the foregoing we might add the testimony of Mr. Thomas Caulton, vicar of Worksop, in Nottinghamshire, who, on his death-bed, declared in the presence of several worthy persons, that Mrs. Eyre, daughter of lady Pakington, told him who was the author of *The whole Duty of Man*; at the same time pulling out of a private drawer a manuscript tied together and stiched in octavo, which she declared was the original written by lady Pakington her mother.

Upon the whole, it is presumed, that lady Pakington's title to this performance is by far the clearest of all those to whom it has been ascribed; but whether it is absolutely ascertained, must be left to the judgement of the candid and impartial.

Full of years and good works, she died 1679, and was interred in the church of Hampton Lovett, in Worcestershire; where is a small memorial of her, inscribed at the bottom of the monument erected for the late Sir John Pakington, as follows:

In the same church lyes Sir John Pakington, knt. and bart. and his lady, grandfather and grandmother to the said Sir John; the first tryed for his life, and spent the greatest part of his fortune in adhering to king Charles I; and the latter justly reputed the authoress of *The whole Duty of Man*, who was exemplary for her great piety and goodness.

Female Worthies.

PAMPHILA, *of Epidaurus, the daughter of Soteridas.*

SUIDAS reckons up several of her writings, as well in prose as verse; in all which she attained to so great a repute, that her statue is said to have been erected by Cephisodorus.

Female Worthies.

PAMPHILA,

AN Egyptian lady, who composed a miscellaneous history divided into thirty-three books, as also many other treatises.

F. C.

PANTHEA, *wife of Abradates, king of Susa, in the Persian empire,*

WAS taken prisoner by Cyrus; and the description which Xenophon gives of her beauty and distress deserves attention. ‘Cyrus, says he, commanded Araspes to keep Panthea and the finest tent for him: she was seated on the ground, in the tent, with all her female attendants around her, and clothed in the same kind of habit as they were. All her waiting women rose up with her; but she excelled them all, in stature, in strength, in grace and beauty. Then her tears fell, and when they told her she was intended for Cyrus, she tore her upper raiment, and began to bewail herself: and know, Cyrus, says Araspes, that myself and all who saw her, were of opinion, that there never was known or born of mortals so beautiful a woman in all Asia.’ He was very urgent with Cyrus to go and see her, which he refused to do, fearing her charms would have so strong an influence over him, as to retard the progress of his glory.

In

In short Cyrus gave her the most honourable treatment. This charmed Panthea so much, that she prevailed with her husband to come over with his troops to him. Abradates asking his consort, what return he should make him for his great humanity and kindness, she replied, 'Only endeavour to behave as generously towards him, as he has done towards you.' Abradates after this, offered his service to that monarch, who accepted of it. Panthea equipped her husband for the fight, exhorted him to behave courageously, and took a most tender farewell. Abradates upon this went and joined Cyrus, and coming to an engagement, he fought with the utmost intrepidity; but was thrown out of his chariot, and being afterwards deserted by his friends, fell in the field. Panthea found his corpse, and, laying it in her own sedan, brought it to the river Pactolus. Her slaves dug a grave upon a little hillock, whilst she herself was sitting on the ground, with his head in her lap, dressing him with all the ornaments she had about her. Cyrus came to the place where Panthea was sitting by the corpse, and the mournful spectacle drew tears from his eyes. Afterwards, speaking in the most tender terms, he took hold of Abradates's hand, which came off into his, it having been cut through with an Egyptian spear. This greatly increased the grief of Cyrus; but as for Panthea, she was inconsolable, and taking the hand from Cyrus, kissed it, and fixed it on again as well as she could, crying out, 'The rest, O Cyrus, is as this;' and then 'I am sensible, that I am the chief cause of this catastrophe. For I was silly enough to exhort him to perform some action, by which he might prove how much he was your friend.'

Cyrus having wept silently for some time, endeavoured to console her, by declaring, that due honours should be

be paid him at his funeral, and that she herself should be conveyed whithersoever she pleased. But resolving to die, she bade the only attendant she would suffer to stay with her, to cover her with the same cloth as her husband after she was dead. The woman begged her not to think of laying violent hands upon herself; but Panthea was inexorable; and taking out a Persian scymitar she had prepared for that purpose, plunged it into her side, and reclining her head on her husband's breast, expired. Upon which her three eunuchs stabbed themselves. Cyrus afterwards erected a very stately mausoleum to their memory. This happened the year of the 58th Olympiad, 548 B. C.

Female Worthies.

PANZACHIA (MARIA-HELENA), *a Paintress, of Bologna; born in 1668, of a noble Family.*

SHE acquired great readiness in composition, correctness of outline, and a lovely tint of colouring. Her landscapes are very fine. She painted works for many cities. Her great excellence was, introducing, in delightful scenes, most graceful little figures, that seemed to move, and expressed their different occupations in the most lively manner. She was much honoured and caressed.

Abec. Pitt.

PARASOLE (ISABELLA), *Wife of Leonardo Nisino, Engraver in Wood, took to Design;*

SHE made a Book of Inventions for Ornamental Designs, and Works of Embroidery: she died in Rome, about

about fifty years of age. One of her sons followed painting as a profession.

Abec. Pitt.

PARISATIS, *Wife of Darius Ochus, and Mother of Artaxerxes Mnemon, Kings of Persia.*

SHE had also another son, Cyrus the Younger, who was her favourite, and whom she incited to revolt from his brother, fighting against whom he fell, 401 B. C. Parisatis, who is famous for the refinement of her cruelty, punished in the most severe manner all who had served as the instruments of Artaxerxes in destroying his brother. She also poisoned Statira, the wife of Artaxerxes, of whose influence on the mind of her husband she was jealous; but, by the defection of her confidant, was discovered, and confined by her son at Babylon, where she requested to reside: he told her also, that wherever she went, he would never come.

F. C.

PARR (CATHERINE),

WAS the eldest of the two daughters of Sir Thomas Parr, of Kendal, who gave her a liberal education, as the most valuable addition he could make to her other accomplishments; and her attainments in literature fully answered his expectations; so that she became justly celebrated for her learning and good sense, which she employed to the best purposes through every stage of her life.

Her first husband was John Nevil, lord Latimer. After his decease her beauty and accomplishments so powerfully attracted the affections of king Henry, that she was married to him 1643.

She

She always took a peculiar pleasure in reading the sacred writings, and seems to have been piously disposed from her infancy; but the religious duties she so carefully practised in her youth were according to the Roman catholic faith, though she was afterwards very strenuous in advancing the reformation, and encouraging the protestant cause. These designs she pursued as far as the mutable and perverse disposition of an arbitrary prince, and the iniquity of the times would admit; and even further than she could do, without exposing herself to the utmost danger. For though her endeavours were managed with great prudence, and as much secrecy as the nature of the thing would admit of; yet they were observed by Gardiner, bishop of Winchester, who, with chancellor Wriothesly, and others, conspired against her so artfully, that, having drawn up articles, they got a warrant signed with the king's own hand to commit her to the Tower; which being accidentally dropt, was luckily found by one who conveyed it to the queen. The sight of it, and the recollection of the hard fate of some of her predecessors, threw her into a violent disorder, which confined her to her bed. The king hearing of her illness, made her a very seasonable visit; spoke to her all the kind things imaginable; and sent her Dr. Wendy, one of his physicians. Being himself at that time somewhat ill disposed, the doctor advised her by all means to go and cheer him up, and recruit his drooping spirits; not doubting but that by her good sense, and prudent management, she might avert the impending danger. The queen took his advice, and soon after made his majesty a visit, attended only by her sister the lady Herbert, and lady Lane. She found him sitting and talking with some gentlemen of his chamber. The king seemed pleased with her visit; and breaking off his discourse
with

with his attendants, began of his own accord to confer with her about matters of religion; seeming, as it were, desirous to be resolved by the queen, of certain doubts which he then offered to her. The queen instantly perceiving the drift of his discourse, answered with great humility and submission:

That as a simple woman, much inferior to his majesty, she always referred herself to his wisdom, as her only anchor, supreme head, and governor here on earth, next under God, to lean unto.

‘Not so, by St. Mary, replied the king; you are become a doctor, Kate, to instruct us (as we take it) and not to be instructed or directed by us.’

‘If your majesty take it so (says the queen) then hath your majesty very much mistaken me. And where I have with your leave presumed heretofore to discourse with your majesty, in which I have sometimes seemed to dissent from you; I did it not so much to maintain my opinion, as to minister discourse, not only to the end that your majesty might with less grief pass over this painful time of your infirmity, but also, that I hearing your majesty’s learned arguments might from thence gain to myself great advantage.’

‘And is it even so, sweet-heart (said the king) and tended your arguments to no worse end? Then are we now perfect friends again, as ever we were before.’ And as he sat in his chair, embracing her in his arms, and saluting her, he said, ‘that it did him more good at that time to hear those words from her own mouth, than if he had heard present news of an hundred thousand pounds fallen to him.’ Upon which, it being then late at night, he gave her leave to depart; and in her absence spoke highly in her commendation.

The day, and almost the hour, appointed for sending
the

the queen to the Tower being come, the king took a walk in his garden, with only two gentlemen of the bed chamber, and sent for the queen, who instantly came to him: he seemed in high spirits. But in the midst of their mirth, the lord chancellor approached his presence, with forty guards. The king looked upon him with a very stern countenance, and walking a little distance from the queen, called the chancellor to him, who, upon his knees, spoke softly to his majesty. The king, in a rage, called him knave, arrant knave, beast and fool, and commanded him instantly to be gone from his presence. On his departure, Henry returned to the queen, who perceiving him to be greatly moved, used all her eloquence to soften his displeasure, entreating his majesty, if his fault was not too great, to pardon him for her sake.

‘ Ah, poor soul (replied the king) thou little knowest how evil he deserveth this grace at thy hands. Of my word, sweet-heart, he hath been toward thee an arrant knave, and so let him go.’

She was convinced that the principles of the religion in which she had been brought up were not founded on holy writ; yet she would not trust wholly to her own reason in an affair of such importance; for she kept several eminent divines constantly with her, to solve her doubts, and instruct her, in quality of chaplains. With these she had frequent conferences in private concerning the reformation, and the abuses crept into the church: but particularly in Lent, she had a sermon preached in her chamber, at which the ladies and gentlewomen of her privy chamber and others, were present. She was likewise very assiduous in studying books of divinity, and especially the scriptures. Being thus qualified, she began to comm t some of her own thoughts to writing. Her first composition seems to have been that, intituled,

Queen

Queen Katherine Parr's Lamentation of a Sinner, bewailing the Ignorance of her blind Life. London, 1548 and 1563. This discourse was found among her papers after her death; and was published by secretary Cecil, who prefixed to it a preface of his writing.

She also composed many psalms, prayers, and pious discourses. These books being exceedingly scarce, the reader will find an account given of them by Mr. Strype. When the act was made, that all colleges, chantries, and free chapels should be at the king's disposal, the university of Cambridge was under terrible apprehensions, and well knowing the queen's great affection to learning, addressed letters to her, entreating her to intercede with the king for their colleges; which she effectually performed; and wrote to them in answer, 'that she exhorts them not to thirst after profane learning, and forget christianity.'

This shews the great influence she had over the king, and the good use she made of it; his ill health joined such fierceness of manners to his former intractable dispositions, as rendered it a task extremely difficult, even for his prime favourites to make themselves agreeable to him, and retain his esteem: yet such were the amiable qualities of the queen, that she not only preserved his affection under all his pains and sickness, but greatly contributed to the alleviation of them, which fixed her so entirely in his good graces, that, after the bishop of Winchester had failed in his scheme, none of her enemies durst make any attempts against her. The following clause, in his last will, is dated December 30, 1636, but one month before his decease.—“ And for the great love, obedience, chastness of life and wisdom, he bequeathed unto her for her proper use, and as it shall please her

her to order it, three thousand pounds in plate, jewels, and stuff of household, besides such apparel as it shall please her to take, as she hath already; and farther we give unto her one thousand pounds in money with the enjoyment of her dowry, according to our grant by act of parliament."

Her great zeal for the reformation, and earnest desire to have the scriptures understood by the common people, induced her to employ several learned persons to translate *Erasmus's Paraphrase on the New Testament* into English, at her own expence. She engaged the lady Mary (afterwards queen) in translating the paraphrase on St. John: and wrote to her an epistle, in Latin, for that purpose.

King Henry dying, when she had been his wife three years, six months, and five days, she was married, not long after, to Sir Thomas Seymour, lord admiral, and uncle to Edward VI.

This unhappy marriage raised her a new scene of troubles; for between the pride of her sister-in-law, the duchess of Somerset, and the boundless ambition of the admiral, such furious animosities ensued, as proved the destruction of both families; and necessarily involved her in such troubles and perplexities, as put a final stop to her studies, and to all temporal enjoyments.

She lived, however, but a short time with the admiral; for, after being delivered of a daughter, she died in childbed, 1548, not without suspicion of poison; indeed she herself apprehended some unfair dealings, and on her death bed reproached the admiral with his unkindness.

Female Worthies.

PARRY

PARRY (BLANCH), *Daughter of Henry Parry, of Newcourt, Herefordshire, Esq; born 1508.*

As a lover of antiquities, she must not be excluded from the catalogue of famous women. She generously communicated to that learned antiquarian Dr. Powell, Sir Edward Stradling's manuscript history of *The Winning of Glamorgan, or Morgannwe, out of the Welchmen's Hands, &c.* which is published by the doctor, in his valuable, and now scarce, history of the Welch princes; and likewise procured of queen Elizabeth, for that famous mathematician Dr. John Dee, the grant of the mastership of St. Crosse's, when he was in distress.

She drew up a pedigree of the Parry family, which shews her taste for those studies, and the gentility of her descent.

In Westminster Abbey, on the south side of the chancel, is the following inscription:

“Here under is intombed Blanch Parry, daughter to Henry Parry, of New-Court, within the county of Hereford, Esq; chief gentlewoman of queen Elizabeth's most honourable privy chamber, and keeper of her majesty's jewels, whom she faithfully served from her highnesses birth; and beneficial to her kinsfolk and countrymen, charitable to the poore, inso-much that she gave to the poore of Bacton and Newton, in Herefordshire, seven-score bushels of wheat and rye yearly, with divers summes of money to Westminster and other places, for good uses. She died a maid, in the 82d year of her age, the 12th of February, 1589.”

In her will, written by the treasurer Burleigh's own hand,

hand, among other legacies, is 500*£*. for an almshouse at Bacton.

Female Worthies,

PARTHENAI (ANNE DE), *Wife of Antony de Pons, Count of Marennnes, and amongst the brightest Ornaments of the court of Renée de France, Duchess of Ferrara, Daughter of Lewis XII.*

THE protectress of learning, and the delight of every society into which she entered, Anne de Parthenai had a fine voice, and knew music perfectly. She understood Greek and Latin, and took great pleasure in conversing with theologians, and reading the scriptures, which induced her to turn protestant. We are ignorant of the time of her death.

F. C.

PARTHENAI (CATHERINE DE), *Niece of the preceding; Daughter and heiress of John de Parthenai, Seigneur de Soubise.*

She had a turn for poetry; as appears from some poems published in 1572, when she was not above eighteen years of age. She is generally thought to be the author of the apology for Henry IV. which was printed as hers in the new edition of her journal of Henry III. Daubigny assures us, that the king shewed it him as a piece written in her stile. Bayle declares, that whoever wrote it, is a person of wit and genius. It is in reality a very sharp satire. Catherine wrote also tragedies and comedies, which have not been printed; and the tragedy of *Holofernes*, which was represented on the theatre at *Rochelle*, in 1754.

When

When only 14 years of age, she married Charles de Quellence, baron de Pont, in Britanny, who, upon the marriage, took the name of Soubise; under which name he is mentioned with honour in the second and third civil wars in France, and fell in the general massacre of St. Bartholomew, 1571, after fighting valiantly for his life.

His wife wrote several elegies, deploring her loss; to which she added some on the death of the admiral, and other illustrious personages.

She married secondly, 1573, Renatus, viscount Rohan, the second of that name, who dying 1586, though she was not yet above 32 years of age, she resolved to spend the remainder of her life in the education of her children.

Her eldest son was the famous duke de Rohan, who asserted the protestant cause with so much vigour, during the civil wars in the reign of Lewis XIII. Her second the duke of Soubise. She had also three daughters, Henrietta, who died in 1629; Catherine, who married a duke of Deux Ponts in 1605, and whose beauty having attracted the eyes of Henry IV. when he declared his passion, she immediately replied, "I am too poor to be your wife, and too nobly born to be your mistress."

Her third daughter was Anne, who survived all her brothers and sisters, and inherited both her genius and magnanimous spirit. She lived unmarried with her mother, and with her bore all the calamities of the siege of Rochelle. The daughter's resolution was remarkable, but the mother's more, as she was then in her 75th year. They were reduced for three months to the necessity of living upon horse-flesh, and four ounces of bread a day. Yet not-

withstanding this dismal situation, she wrote to her son to go on as he had begun, and not let the consideration of the extremity to which she was reduced prevail upon him to make him act any thing to the prejudice of his party, how great soever her sufferings might be. In short, she and her daughter refused to be included in the articles of capitulation, and remained prisoners of war. They were conveyed to the castle of Niort, 1628, and she died there 1631, aged 77.

Female Worthies.

PATINA (MADELEINE-HOMMETS), *and her Daughters*, CHARLOTTE and GABRIELLE, *of Paris, hold a distinguished Rank amidst the Learned Women of France and Italy.*

THE mother was daughter and wife of famous French physicians, and composed many pious works.

F. C.

PATINA (CARLA-GABRIELLA), *born 1666,*

WAS educated by her father in the most careful manner; instructed in various sciences, in Latin, in her own language, French, and in geography, in the knowledge of ancient marbles, of cameos, medals, history, poetry, and drawing, and was with the highest applause elected a member of the Parisian academy. She was author of a Latin Dissertation on the Phoenix; a Panegyric on Lewis XIV. pronounced, in 1685, in the academy of Padua, and of many other discourses. Her sister,

CATERINA,

Amongst other works, printed a book, in folio, in
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the year 1691, in Cologne, intituled *Le Scielte Pitture Intagliate e dichiarate, da Car. Cat. Patina*, with parts of many famous works.

Abecedario Pitt.

PAULA,

A LEARNED and pious lady, of the family of the Scipios; a disciple of St. Jerom. She died 407, aged 57. St. Jerom wrote her life.

F. C. &c.

PEMBROKE (MARY SIDNEY, COUNTESS OF)

born about the middle of the sixteenth century, daughter of Sir Henry Sidney, Knt. of the Garter, lord lieutenant of Ireland and lord president of Wales, and the beloved sister of Sir Philip Sidney.

HER natural genius was excellent; which assisted by a polite education, enabled her to make an illustrious appearance among the literati of that time.

About the year 1576, she married Henry lord Pembroke, by whom she had William, who succeeded him in his honours, Philip, and a daughter who died young.

Robert Dudley, earl of Leicester, her uncle, made the match for her, and paid part of her fortune. Her brother Sir Philip Sidney, the ornament of his age and country, was so exceedingly pleased with her fine genius, and excellent improvement of it, that he consecrated his ingenious romance to her under the title of *The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia*, beginning 'dear and most worthy to be dear lady;' and Mr. Abraham Fraunce endeavoured to do her honour by devoting his labours to her; the titles of whose books induced some to think they were of her own composing. The titles are, *The Countess of*

Pembroke's Yvy-church. Containing the affectionate life and unfortunate death of Phillis and Amyntas: That in a pastoral: This in a Funeral: Both in English Hexameters, by Abraham Fraunce, 1591. Also, The Countess of Pembroke's Emmanuel. Containing the Nativity, Burial, and Resurrection of Christ: together with certain Psalms of David. All in English Hexameter, by Abraham Fraunce, 1592.

As her genius inclined her to poetry, she translated many of the Psalms into English verse; which are still preserved in the library at Wilton. But Sir John Harrington supposes, that she was assisted by Dr. Babington, chaplain to that family, and afterwards bishop of Worcester: for, says he, it was more than a woman's skill to express the sense of the Hebrew so right, as she hath done in her verse; or more than the Latin or English translation could give her.

She translated and published, *A Discourse of Life and Death, written in French by Philip Mornay, done into English by the countess of Pembroke, 1590. Likewise the Tragedy of Antonie. Done into English by the countess of Pembroke, 1595.*

This great lady was not only learned herself, but a patroness of men of letters.

She survived her husband twenty years; and having lived to a good old age, died at her house in Aldersgate-street, London, 1602. She was buried with the Pembroke family, in the chancel of the cathedral church of Salisbury; but without any monument. (See article HERBERT.)

Female Worthies.

PEMBROKE (ANNE, COUNTESS OF) *born at Skip-ton Castle, in Craven, 1589,*

DAUGHTER and sole heir to George Clifford, third earl of Cumberland; descended from the three ancient and noble families of the Cliffords, Viponts, and Vesseys, lords and barons in the north; and she added to her escutcheons Pembroke, Dorset, and Montgomery, the titles of three great earldoms in the south.

She had a greatness of mind which added dignity to her high rank; for bishop Rainbow, who knew her well, assures us, that she was enriched by nature with very extraordinary endowments. ‘She had, (says he) a clear soul, shining through a vivid body; her body was durable and healthful, her soul sprightly, of great understanding and judgment, faithful memory, and ready wit.’

Her natural endowments were happily improved by our ingenious historian and poet, Mr. Samuel Daniel, who was her preceptor, and under whom she made a considerable progress in many parts of literature; increasing her knowledge by reading and conversing with persons eminent for learning: ‘By which means, as the above-mentioned prelate observes, she had early gained an ability to discourse in all commendable arts and sciences, as well as in those things which belong to persons of her birth and sex to know. For she could discourse with virtuosos, travellers, scholars, merchants, divines, statesmen, and with good housewives in any kind; insomuch that a prime and elegant wit, Dr. Donne, well seen in all human learning, and afterwards devoted to the study of divinity, is reported to have said of this lady, in her younger years, to this effect; that she knew well how to discourse of all things, from predestination to slea silk.

Meaning, that although she was skilled in housewifery, and in such things in which women are conversant, yet her penetrating wit soared up to pry in the highest mysteries, looking at the highest example of female wisdom. Although she knew wool and flax, fine linen and silk, things appertaining to the spindle and the distaff; yet she could open her mouth with wisdom, knowledge of the best and highest things; and if this had not been most affected by her, solid wisdom, knowledge of the best things, such as make wise unto salvation; if she had sought fame rather than wisdom, possibly she might have been ranked among those wise and learned of her sex, of whom Pythagoras or Plutarch, or any of the ancients, have made such honourable mention.

‘ But she affected rather to study those noble Bereans, and those honourable women (as St. Paul there stiles them) who searched the scriptures daily; with Mary she chose the better part, of hearing the doctrine of Christ.’

She had two husbands; the first was, Richard, earl of Dorset, to whom she was married 1609. He died 1624. By him she had Thomas, who died young, Margaret, married to the earl of Northampton, and Isabel, to the earl of Thanet. Her second husband was Philip, earl of Pembroke and Montgomery, who died 1629, by whom she had no issue.

She survived him 27 years, during which time she employed herself in a constant series of good works, extensive charities, and generosity to learned men; also in erecting several sacred edifices; besides a noble hospital, and many other stately buildings, both for the honour of her family and for the public good.

She was very exemplary in observing religious duties both in public and private, a constant frequenter of divine service, as well as attendant on the sacrament of
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the Lord's supper. Nor was she less diligent in her private devotions, which were constantly performed in her private oratory three times a day; and careful that none of her servants might be remiss or negligent in the observance of religious duties. She shewed herself a zealous daughter of the church of England in the most perilous times, and constantly persisted in practising its doctrines, discipline, and worship. She erected a beautiful pillar on the place, where she took her last farewell of her mother; it is commonly called the countess's pillar; and is adorned with coats of arms, dials, &c. with an obelisk on the top coloured black; and the following inscription in brass, declaring the occasion and meaning of it:

This pillar was erected anno 1656, by the right honourable Anne, countess dowager of Pembroke, and sole heir of the right honourable George, earl of Cumberland, &c. For a memorial of her last parting in this place with her good and pious mother the right honourable Margaret, countess dowager of Cumberland, the second of April, 1616. In memory whereof she also left an annuity of four pounds, to be distributed to the poor within this parish of Brougham, every second day of April, upon this stone table by.

LAUS DEO.

She also erected a monument to her tutor, Mr. Daniel, in the church at Beckington, near Philips Norton, in Somersetshire.

Repaired and restored an alms-house at Bearmky, which was built and endowed by her mother.

And in 1651 laid the first stone of an hospital, which she founded at Appleby, in Westmoreland, for a governess and twelve other widows; for the endowments of which she purchased the manor of Brougham, and certain lands called St. Nicholas, near Appleby.

When

When she had finished her hospital, she not only led and placed her pensioners in their several apartments, but frequently dined with them there, as they often did with her at her own table; some of them every week, and all of them once a month; and after dinner she would as freely converse with them, as with persons of the highest rank.

She repaired the church, school-house, town-hall and bridge, at Appleby.

Rebuilt a great part of the church, and made a vault at the north east corner of the chapel for her own sepulchre, at the expence of about 700*£*. over which she erected a monument of black and white marble for herself.

She built a great part of the steeple at Skipton, in Craven, which had been pulled down in the time of the civil wars. And having repaired a great part of that church, erected there a fine monument for her father, George, earl of Cumberland.

She entirely built the church at Bongate, near Appleby; the chapel at Brougham, and that of Ninekirk.

She rebuilt the chapel of Mallerstang, and purchased lands of 11*£*. per annum, for the perpetual support of a person qualified to read prayers, with the Homilies of the church of England, therein; and to teach the children of the Dale to read and write English.

She likewise performed many great things for the honour and benefit of her family and posterity; for besides other inferior structures, she built six castles. Neither was she less careful in preserving the memoirs of her ancestors; for we are assured by bishop Rainbow, ' that, as she had been a most critical searcher into her own life, so she had been a diligent enquirer into the lives, fortunes, and characters of many of her ancestors
for

for many years. Some of them she has particularly described, and the exact annals of divers passages which were most remarkable in her own life, ever since it was wholly at her own disposal, that is, since the death of her last lord and husband, Philip, earl of Pembroke, which was for the space of six or seven and twenty years.'

Thus did this great and excellent lady employ her time in good and useful works of various kinds, till she arrived at the age of 85, when she resigned her soul into the hands of her Creator, in the castle at Brougham, 1575-6, and was buried at Appleby, in Westmoreland.

Female Worthies.

PENNINGTON (LADY),

AUTHOR of *The Unfortunate Mother's Advice to her absent Daughters*.

PERILLA, a Roman Lady, in the Time of Augustus,

WAS in general esteem for her learning and virtue, especially for her poetical abilities, for which she was celebrated by Ovid, whose scholar, as the seventh elegy of his *Tristia*, of which she is the subject, sufficiently proves.

PERPETUA (VIVIA), a Martyr, under the Persecution of Severus, in 203 or 205.

A LADY of quality, at Carthage, who at the time she was accused, was about twenty-two years of age; married, and had an infant son, which she nursed herself.

self. Her father, a pagan, but full of affection for his favourite offspring, importuned her to turn from the Christian faith; and her constancy appeared to him an absurd obstinacy. For a few days, while she and other catechumens (among whom was Felicitas, a slave) were under guard, but not confined in the prison, they found means to be baptized, and Perpetua's prayers were directed particularly for patience under bodily pain. They were then put into a dark prison. To the rest, more accustomed to hardships, this change of scene had nothing in it so terrible. To her, who had known nothing but the delicacies of genteel life, it was peculiarly irksome, and her concern for her infant was extreme. Two deacons of the church obtained, by money, leave for them to be refreshed by going for some hours into a more commodious place, where Perpetua gave the breast to her infant, and then recommended him carefully to her mother. For some time her mind was unhappy for the distress she had brought on her family, but in time her spirit was more composed. Her father, some time after, came to the prison overwhelmed with grief, which, in all probability, was augmented by the reflections he made on his passionate behaviour at the last interview. "Have pity, my daughter," said he, "on my grey hairs; have pity on your father, if I was ever worthy of that name; if I myself have brought you up to this age, if I have preferred you to all your brethren, make me not a reproach of mankind, respect your father and your aunt," (these, it seems, were pagans, while the mother and the rest of the family were christians, since it is said he was the only one of them who resisted her martyrdom); "have compassion on your son, who cannot survive you; lay aside your obstinacy,

stinacy, lest you destroy us all; for if you perish, we must all of us mourn in disgrace." The old gentleman, with much tenderness, kissed her hands, threw himself at her feet, weeping and calling her no longer his daughter, but his sovereign. Perpetua could only intreat him to acquiesce in the divine disposal, since she could neither bring herself to commit impiety by sacrificing to false gods, nor to execrate that holy name in which she hoped for salvation; and which alone was competent to save even the parent, whose heart was now so averse.

The next day they were all brought before a crowded court, and examined; her father came there with his little grandson, and taking Perpetua aside, conjured her to have some pity on her child. The procurator joined in the suit, but in vain. The old man then attempting to draw his daughter from the scaffold, the procurator ordered him to be beaten, and a blow, which he received with a staff, was felt by Perpetua very severely. They were then sentenced to be exposed to wild beasts, and returned cheerfully to prison. Perpetua sent to her father for her child, which he refused to return.

Felicitas, who was with child, and feared her execution would be deferred, was now delivered. One of the door-keepers, who perhaps expected to have found in her a stoical insensibility, and heard her cries, said "do you complain of this? what will you do when you are exposed to the beasts?" Felicitas answered, with a sagacity truly christian, "it is I that suffer now; but then there will be another with me, because I shall suffer for his sake." Her new-born daughter was delivered to a christian, who nursed it as her own.

The tribune, believing a report that they would free themselves by magical practices, treated them roughly. "Why don't you," said Perpetua, "give us some relief? will it not be for your honour that we should appear well fed at the spectacles?" This address had a very happy effect. The day before the show they ate in public, their friends were allowed to visit them, and the keeper of the prison by this time was converted to the faith; they talked to the people, warned them to flee from the wrath to come, and smiled at the curiosity of those who ran to see them.

On the day of trial, joy, rather than fear, was in their looks. Perpetua went on with a composed countenance and easy pace, holding down her eyes, lest the spectators might draw wrong conclusions from their vivacity. Some idolatrous habits were offered them. "We sacrifice our lives," said they, "to avoid this, and thus we have bargained with you." The tribune desisted from his demand. After being scourged, Perpetua and Felicitas, were put into the nets, and exposed to a wild cow. The beauty of the one and weak state of the latter, excited some compassion in the spectators; they drew them back and covered them with loose garments. Perpetua was first attacked; but though she did not faint, her terror had rendered her insensible of what had passed, till she saw on her body and clothes the marks of her sufferings. She caused her brother to be called, and addressing herself to him and another christian, she said, "continue firm in the faith, love one another, and be not offended at our sufferings."

The people insisted on having the martyrs brought into the midst of the amphitheatre, that they might have the pleasure of seeing them die. Perpetua fell into
the

the hands of an unskilful gladiator, but she guided his trembling hand to her throat.

Milner's Church History.

PESCARA (VICTORIA COLONNA, MARCHESA DE), *the most celebrated female Poet of Italy,*

WAS of a most illustrious house, and admired in the 16th century, for her courage, learning and conjugal fidelity. Daughter of Fabricius Colonna, a Roman nobleman, she was married to the marquis of Pescara, one of the most famous generals of the age. After the victory of Pavia, the pope and Italian princes, who wished to shake off the yoke of the emperor Charles V. offered to the marquis, who had a great part in the above victory, the kingdom of Naples; but Victoria wisely persuaded him to refuse the dangerous but dazzling offer, and keep in the bounds of prudence and moderation. After his death, which happened in the flower of her age, she refused every offer of marriage, saying, "that her husband yet lived, and would ever live, in her heart." In fact, she never ceased regretting him, and her most beautiful poems are written to his memory. Towards the latter end of her life, she retired into a monastery, at Milan, where she died about 1541.

F. C.

PFRINTIA (ANNA MARIA), *Daughter of Giorgio, a Sculptor,*

BETOOK herself to his art, but on different materials; he worked in marble, and she in wax made portraits excessively like, and mixed colours with the wax so that she succeeded in giving each tint its natural hue.

'Abec. Pitt.

PHA-

PHATHEMA, *a Moorish Spaniard, of Valencia,*

APPLIED herself to jurisprudence, at Corduba, where she was distinguished for her writings and piety : she died in the 319th year of the Hegira.

Bibliotheca Arabico-Hispanæ Escurialiensis.

PHATHEMA, *of Seville, the Sister of Ahmed, commonly called Albag, a very celebrated Man.*

WHO wrote very skilfully, with her brother, *Precepts of Law*, and a *History of her own Times*, wherein you may admire the dignity and elegance of her style.

Ibid.

PHATHEMA, *Daughter of Zachary the Prætor, called Alschablar, of Corduba.*

NOTED for her learning; wrote with her own hand many volumes in an elegant manner; died unmarried, in the 427th year of the Hegira, aged 94.

Ibid.

PHEMONOE.

THE first priestess of Apollo, and utterer of the delphic oracles; said to have been the inventor of heroic verse, in which she wrote many things.

Female Worthies.

PHILIPPA OF HAINAULT, *Queen of England.*

WAS betrothed to Edward (when prince of Wales and aged 14) in 1325, through the mediation of Isabella, his mother, who sojourned for a short time at the court
of

of the earl of Hainault, when preparing to pass over into England with her son (both of whom had been declared traitors) and force by hostile measures, the king to give up the Spencers, his worthless favourites. After his death and the coronation of Edward III. certain ambassadors were sent to demand the lady Philippa, who was conveyed over to England in great state, and on the day of the Conversion of St. Paul, the marriage and coronation of the queen was solemnized, the rejoicings, &c. lasted three weeks.

In 1346, when, after the victorious battle of Cressy, Edward lay before Calais, David Bruce, king of Scotland, invaded the northern counties of England, with a great army, and carried his ravages as far as Durham. He was there met by queen Philippa, at the head of a body of twelve thousand men, which she committed to the command of lord Percy. A fierce engagement ensued; and the Scots were broken, and chased off the field with great slaughter. Fifteen thousand were slain, amongst whom were the chancellor and earl marshal. The king himself was taken prisoner, together with many of his principal nobility.

As soon as Philippa had secured her royal captive, she crossed the sea at Dover, and was received in the English camp, before Calais, with all the eclat due to her rank, her merit, and her success. This was the age of chivalry and gallantry. Edward's courtiers excelled in these accomplishments no less than in policy and war; and the extraordinary qualities of the women of those times, the necessary consequence of respectful admiration, form the best apology for the superstitious devotion which was then paid to the fair sex.

Whether the story of her interceding for the prisoners of Calais, doomed to death by Edward, which is with
good

good grounds doubted by Gifford, be true, we cannot determine; but it appears, that Edward was a faithful and affectionate husband, and undertook nothing without her advice; and that Phillippa always conducted herself with wisdom and generosity.

She founded Queen's College, at Oxford, about 1360.

Modern Europe, &c.

PHILLIPS (KATHERINE), *the celebrated ORINDA, Daughter of John Fowler, a Merchant of London, born 1631, died 1664.*

At eight years of age she was sent to a boarding school at Hackney; where she was distinguished very early for her skill in poetry. Mr. Aubrey tells us, 'that she was very apt to learn, and made verses when at school; that she devoted herself to religious duties when very young; and would pray by herself an hour together; that she read the Bible through before she was full five years old; that she could say by heart many chapters and passages of scripture; was a frequent hearer of sermons, which she would bring away entire in her memory.'

She became afterwards a perfect mistress of the French tongue, and was taught the Italian by her ingenious friend, Sir Charles Cotterel. Bred up in the presbyterian principles, she declares she deserted them as soon as she was capable of judging for herself. She married James Phillips, of the Priory of Cardigan, Esq. about 1647; by whom she had one son, who died in his infancy, and one daughter, married to — Wogan, Esq. of Pembrokeshire. She proved, in all respects, an excellent wife, particularly for the assistance

tance she afforded him in his affairs, which being greatly encumbered, she by her powerful interest with Sir Charles Cotterel, and other great friends, by her good sense, and excellent management, in a great measure, extricated him out of the embarrassments in which he was involved.

As she had naturally a poetical genius, she composed many poems on various occasions, in her recess at Cardigan, and elsewhere, which being dispersed among her friends and acquaintance, were collected together by an unknown hand, and published in 8vo. in 1663. This ungenerous treatment affected her so much that it gave her a severe fit of illness. Her remarkable humility, good-nature, and agreeable conversation greatly endeared her to all her acquaintance; and her polite and elegant writings procured her the friendship and correspondence of many learned and eminent men; and on her going to Ireland with the viscountess Dungannon, to transact her husband's affairs there, her great merit soon recommended her to the regard of those illustrious peers, Ormond, Orrery, Roscommon, and many other persons of distinction, who shewed her singular marks of esteem; and at the pressing instances of those noblemen, particularly lord Roscommon, she translated from the French of Corneille, into English, the tragedy of Pompey, which was acted on the Irish stage several times with great applause in the years 1663 and 64. It was likewise afterwards acted very successfully at the duke of York's theatre, 1678.

She likewise translated from the French of Corneille, the tragedy of Horace. Sir John Denham added a fifth act to the play, which was represented at the court by persons of quality.

While in Ireland, she was very happy in renewing a former intimacy with the famous Dr. Jeremy Taylor, bishop of Down and Connor; who some time before, had done her much honour by writing and publishing, *A Discourse of the Nature, Offices, and Measures of Friendship, with Rules of conducting it. In a Letter to the most ingenious and excellent Mrs. Katherine Phillips.*

Mrs. Phillips left Ireland, 1663, and went to Cardigan, where she spent some time, and then going to London, to enjoy the conversation of her friends, she was seized with the small-pox, died of it in Fleet-street, in the thirty-third year of her age, and was buried in the church of St. Bennet Sherehog, under a large monumental stone, where several of her ancestors were before interred.

She was of a middle stature, rather fat, and ruddy complexioned. In 1667 were published, in folio, *Poems by the most deservedly admired Mrs. Catherine Phillips, the matchless Orinda. To which are added, M. Corneille's Pompey and Horace, Tragedies, with several other Translations from the French; and her Picture before them, engraved by Faithorne.* There was likewise another edition in 1678; in the preface to which we are told, 'that she wrote her familiar letters with good facility, in a very fair hand, and perfect orthography; and if they were collected with those excellent discourses she wrote on several subjects, they would make a volume much larger than that of her Poems.' In 1705, a small volume of her Letters to Sir Charles Cotterel was published, under the title of *Letters from Orinda to Poliarchus.* The editor of which tells us, that 'they were the effect of an happy intimacy between herself and the late famous Poliarchus, and are an admirable

mirable pattern for the pleasing correspondence of a virtuous friendship. They will sufficiently instruct us how an intercourse of writing, between two persons of different sexes, ought to be managed with delight and innocence.'

Her poems are more admired for propriety and beauty of thought, than harmony of versification.

Female Worthies, &c.

PHILA, *one of the most illustrious Ladies of Antiquity, Daughter of Antipater, Governor of Macedon in Alexander's absence,*

WAS a woman of fine sense and abilities, which enabled her to share in the affairs of government. She behaved with so much dexterity in managing the various tempers of those whom it was necessary to reduce, or keep to their allegiance, that she prevented an army composed entirely of factious and turbulent men, from making an insurrection. She married such maidens as were poor at her own expence; and opposed with so much vigour those that oppressed the innocent, that she entirely freed and succoured many persons who were in the way to be ruined by slanderers. Her abilities were not the effect of experience, for when but a young girl, Antipater, her father, one of the wisest politicians of his time, used to consult her on affairs of the highest importance: Phila's first husband was Craterus, who was better beloved by the Macedonians than any other of Alexander's captains. After his death she married Demetrius, who had several other wives, but Phila was the chief and had the greatest authority, though the difference of their ages prevented her from being able to secure

his affections, though he preserved for her the highest respect. On seeing him deprived of his dominions, she swallowed poison.

Female Worthies.

PHRYNE, *a Grecian Courtesan, about 328 B. C.*

SOCIETY alone can discover the charms of the understanding, and women of virtue, amongst the ancient Grecians, were excluded from society. The courtesans, on the contrary, lived publicly at Athens, and by hearing frequent conversations on philosophy, politics, and poetry, they acquired taste, precision, and elegance. Their houses became the schools of eloquence, from whence the poets drew their feeling for ridicule and grace, and the philosophers simplicity of diction. Beautiful and highly accomplished, Phryné ranks among the most distinguished in that class of women. She served as a model for Praxiteles, and a subject for Apelles. Both sculptor and painter represented her as Venus. Her statue, in gold, was placed between those of two kings, at Delphi. Wit and beauty were, as amongst their deities, more frequently sacrificed to than virtue. She offered to rebuild the walls of Thebes, at her own expence, provided they would permit her to place the following inscription on them: "Alexander destroyed Thebes, Phryne rebuilt it."

Essay by M. Thomas.

PIETRO DELLA VALLE (MAANI GIOERIDA,
Wife of the celebrated Traveller),

WAS born in Mesopotamia; and being distinguished for her understanding and beauty, the curiosity of
Pietro

Pietro was excited : he contrived to become acquainted with her, and she soon became his wife. In their frequent conversations, religion was discussed, and she and her parents at length quitted the Chaldean worship, and embraced that of Rome. Her literary progress was astonishing ; she not only made herself acquainted with all the learning comprised in Asiatic literature, but learned twelve languages. Her virtue was equal to her accomplishments : she possessed extraordinary courage and presence of mind, and with sword and pistol bravely seconded her husband in two or three defensive combats. She died of a malignant fever, at Ormus, in the 23d year of her age. M. della Valle embalmed her body, and laying it in a magnificent coffin, carried it with him for four years, in his travels through Asia and other parts, till his arrival at Rome, when he deposited her remains in his family vault, and pronouned her funeral oration himself, till excess of grief prevented his proceeding.

Father Feejoo.

PILKINGTON (LÆTITIA), *a Wit and Poetess ; Daughter of Dr. Van Lewen, a Gentleman of Dutch Extraction, settled in Dublin ; born in 1712.*

SHE had very early a strong inclination and taste for letters, which the following anecdote, related in her *Memoirs*, evinces :

On account of a weakness in the eyes, she had been forbidden to read, which only increased her natural curiosity. “ Twenty times in a day,” says she, “ have I been corrected, for asking what such and such letters spelt: my mother used to tell me the word, accompanied with a good box on the ear, which,

I sup-

I suppose, imprinted it on my mind." She had soon learned to read, which she used to do in private.

"I was at this time about five years of age; when, my mother being abroad, I had happily laid hold on *Alexander's Feast*, and found something so charming in it, that I read it aloud: but how like a condemned criminal did I look, when my father, opening his study door, took me in the very fact; I dropped my book, and burst into tears, begging pardon; and promising never to do so again: but my sorrow was soon dispelled, when he bade me not be frightened, but read to him, which, to his great surprize, I did distinctly and without hurting the beauty of the numbers. Instead of the whipping, of which I stood in dread, he took me up in his arms and kissed me, giving me a whole shilling as a reward, and told me, he would give me another, as soon as I had got a poem by heart, which he put into my hand, and proved to be Mr. Pope's sacred eclogue, which task I performed before my mother returned home. They were both astonished at my memory, and from that day forward, I was permitted to read as much as I pleased, only my father furnished me with the best and politest authors, and took delight in explaining to me, whatever, by reason of my tender years, was above my capacity of understanding."

From a reader she quickly became a writer, and her performances were considered as extraordinary for her years. This, with a very engaging sprightliness, drew many admirers; and at length she became the wife of the Rev. Matthew Pilkington, a gentleman known in the poetical world by his volume of miscellanies, revised by Dean Swift. After she had been married some time, Mr. Pilkington grew jealous of her understanding; and her poetry, which when a lover
he

he admired with raptures, was changed, when he became a husband, into an object of envy.

She was very ambitious of being known to Dean Swift, and obtained her desire in this manner. The anniversary of his birth-day being kept at the deanery, she wrote a copy of verses on the occasion, and inclosed them to Dr. Delany, who next day presented them to the dean: the dean kindly accepted her compliment, and said, "He would see her whenever she pleased." And in a day or two's time, she and her husband were invited, at the dean's request, to dine at Dr. Delany's, where he met them, and was so pleased with her conversation, that from that time she had free access to the deanery; where she had for several years after, all the opportunities she could desire of conversing with him upon all subjects; and it is allowed on all hands, that the description she has delineated of his character, his strange whims, humours, and oddities, is nearer the truth than that any other writer has given of him.

Mr. Alderman Barber being, in his turn, chosen lord mayor of London; from a former intimacy he had with the dean, he made him an offer to nominate his chaplain, and the dean recommended Mr. Pilkington, who with great joy accepted the place: this happened at the time when his jealousies of his wife's excelling him in poetry ran very high, and had greatly soured his temper towards her. After he had been some time at London, and growing at a distance in a better humour, he wrote her a very kind letter, and said that her verses were full of elegance and beauty; that Mr. Pope, to whom he had shewn them, longed to see the writer; and that he himself heartily wished her in London. She accepted the invitation, went, and when his chaplainship

was

was expired, returned, but without him; the reason of his staying behind, was, as he pretended, the prospect of some preferment. But in a short time he and two booksellers were taken up for handing some treasonable poems to the press. On his being released, he let her know he would return to Ireland, but had no money to bear the expence. Upon which she prevailed on her father to send him a bill of 20l. and then he came home.

Not long after this, an accident happened, which threw her affairs into great confusion. Her father was stabbed, she says, by accident, but many in Dublin, believed it was by his wife, though some said, by his own hand: Mr. Pilkington having now no farther expectation of a fortune by her, threw off all reserve in his behaviour, and wanted an opportunity to get rid of her, which soon offered itself, and shews at least great indiscretion, if not guilt on her side.

She came afterwards to England, and settled in London, where her story getting known by the means of Colley Cibber, she lived some time on contributions from the great; but these succours at length failing, was afterwards in the prison of the Marshalsea. After lying nine weeks here, she was released by the generosity of Mr. Cibber, and then, weary of attending on the great, she resolved to employ five guineas she had left, in trade; and accordingly taking a little shop in St. James's Street, furnished it with pamphlets and prints. How long she continued behind the counter is not said; but she has told us, that by the liberality of her friends, and the bounty of her subscribers, she was set above want, and that the autumn of her days was likely to be spent in peace and serenity. Whatever were her prospects, she lived not long to enjoy the comforts of this competence;

tence; in 1750, she died at Dublin, in the 39th year of her age.

Considered as a writer, she holds no mean rank. She was the author of *The Turkish Court, or London Apprentice*, a comedy, acted at Dublin, in 1748, but never printed. The first act of her tragedy, *The Roman Father*, was no ill specimen of her talents that way; and throughout her memoirs, which are written with great sprightliness and wit, are scattered many beautiful little pieces, written in the true spirit of poetry.

Female Worthies.

PITA (MARY), *a Spanish Heroine*,

WHO, when the English besieged Corogna in 1589, and it was on the point of capitulation, with patriotic though vulgar eloquence, remonstrated with her countrymen, rushed herself to battle, in which she was so well seconded, that after killing 15000 of the enemy, she obliged them to raise the siege. Philip II. recompensed her valour, by giving her the rank and pay of an ensign for the remainder of her life; and Philip III. perpetuated it in the family.

Father Feejoo.

PLISSON (MADEMOISELLE), *born at Chartres,*
in 1727;

A POETICAL and philosophical French writer.

PO (THERESA), *a Neapolitan Painter*,

WHO painted principally for the Marchesa de Villena, who patronised her with great liberality, during all the time the marquis was viceroy at Naples.

Father Feejoo.

POM-

POMPADOUR (MADAME LA MARQUISE DE).

THIS lady's nominal father was one Poisson, house steward of the Invalids, at Paris. Some time after his marriage with her mother, one of the most beautiful women in France, falling under the lash of the law, he narrowly escaped execution by flight; he afterwards obtained a pardon, through his daughter's interest. During his absence, her mother, who lived a very dissolute life, was brought to bed of a daughter, which she declared to be the child of M. le Normant de Tourneau, one of her gallants.

This gentleman spared no pains nor expence to procure her those superficial endowments which are often considered as a good education, as dancing, music, and declamation;—accomplishments which were afterwards of great service to her. His fondness for her grew to such a height, that he began to think of marrying her in a manner that shewed he considered her no less than a legitimate daughter. Amongst a number of conquests her growing beauty had made, was that of M. d'Estiolles, nephew to her protector. The point was, to bring over the young gentleman's father, in which Le Normant prevailed, by offering to lay down half his fortune, and to settle the rest upon her at his death; in consequence of which, the young pair were at last united.

It does not appear that her heart had been consulted in this match. D'Estoilles had not the most engaging person; yet, if it had been susceptible of tenderness, he must have gained it. He spared no expences of dress or diversions that could prove his love; and it is generally believed, that, until her affair with the king, she had gone no farther than coquetry. She acknow-
leges,

leges, however, in her *Memoirs*, that she often tried to attract his notice. The libertine character of Lewis XV. made many handsome women, who preferred pomp and power to virtue and honour, aim at attaching him. She threw herself in his way, as often as she could, but without success, till she effected her purpose by the means of a relation in office.

They met: the king, who was affable, and, as she calls it, an hundred leagues from the throne, was pleased with her wit, and she soon captivated him to such a degree, that he was uneasy out of her sight.

In the mean time her husband began to be alarmed, and was soon apprized of his misfortune. Resolved, however, not to acquiesce, he began to speak in the tone of a person that was deeply wronged; when he received a *lettre-de-cachet*, banishing him to Avignon; though afterwards he made interest to be recalled to Paris, on promise of a passive acquiescence in the loss of his wife, now firmly fixed in the king's affections; and though he and his wife never saw each other, they were permitted to keep up a correspondence by letters.

The following anecdote, in her *Memoirs*, shews that this had like to have been attended with fatal consequences to the unfortunate D'Estiolles. "My husband loudly complained of my living at Versailles, and wrote me a very passionate letter, full of reproaches against me, and still more against the king; amongst other indiscreet terms, calling him tyrant. As I was reading it, the king came into my apartment; I immediately thrust it into my pocket. I was for concealing the cause of the emotion I shewed; but, on his repeated instances, put my husband's letter into his hand, assuring him that I had no share in his temerity, and desired that he would punish the writer severely.— "No, madam," said he to me, "your husband is unhappy,

unhappy, and should rather be pitied!" D'Estiollès being informed of it left the kingdom."

In the mean time, no pleasures were thought such, that had not the stamp of the new favourite's contrivance, or the sanction of her approbation. The king found her necessary to the pleasure of his life, and thought no mark of his favour too great; accordingly, he soon gave her a marquisate, with the title of La Pompadour; and created Poisson, who was her brother by the mother's side, marquis of Vandière. She now purchased a palace at Paris, called the Hôtel d'Evreux, near the Thuilleries, which she pulled down, and rebuilt almost from the ground. This caused great heart-burning among the Parisians; and their rage was not a little exasperated by the circumstance of a large parcel of ground being, on this occasion, taken in, towards enlarging her gardens, out of the Course; a place so called from its serving for the nobility and gentry to take the air in coaches. She also procured a superb hotel at Versailles, not for herself, for she had apartments in the palace, but for her numerous retinue. The king, besides, gave her the royal palace of Cressy for life; but the people were justly incensed at such a misapplication of a part of the royal domain. He also built her a magnificent pleasure-house, called Belle Vue, from the spot on which it is built, just between Paris and Versailles: here too, in order to form the gardens, several proprietors of lands were despotically compelled to part with them, much against their will, and at a fixed price.

Such high marks of distinction, bestowed with such unbounded profusion, could not but create to the person on whom they were conferred a number of enemies. The dissatisfaction was general; but it soon became evident, that the way to ruin, let the rank and services
of

of the offenders be ever so great, was an attempt to injure, or even to jest upon La Pompadour.

To convince the world of the high idea she had of her own power, she suffered no stool or chair besides her own in her dressing room, where she received company; and her arrogance increasing with her favour, nothing would serve her but having the honours of the Louvre, which principally consists in the privilege of the tabouret, or stool, to sit on in the presence of the queen, and in being presented to her to be embraced, which is the ceremony of investiture. The triumph however did not come pure and unmixed: for she was treated contemptuously by the dauphin; but on complaining to the king, he adopted her resentment; and the next day, as the dauphin was going to pay him a morning visit, he received orders to retire to his palace at Meudon. The queen, the ministers and members at court, interposed: the king, however, would not hearken to any proposals for a reconciliation, but on condition that he should personally go to La Pompadour, and in full circle disown his behaviour; which he submitted to. Not long after she wished to be lady of the palace to the queen; a place never given but to ladies of the highest rank and character. The queen however, only mildly represented, that it would be too crying an indecency to admit into that station a person, who could not even approach the altar to take the sacrament, as living in a state of separation from her husband. La Pompadour found means to vanquish this difficulty. She wrote a letter to her husband, intreating him to receive her again, and promising, 'that she would henceforward take care to edify the world by their union;' but by her manoeuvres, he was induced positively to refuse her request.

The

The copy of these letters were shewn to every body, and by this farce she became reconciled to the church. The capital objection to her admission was removed, and the queen desisted from any farther opposition.

When that attempt was made by Damien on the king's life, in consequence of which his death was expected, a powerful party was formed, to forbid her the presence. The bishop, who attended the king, urged it as a matter of conscience. Accordingly, on presenting herself at the chamber door, she had the mortification to have it shut upon her. The king being in five or six days perfectly recovered, paid her the first visit, and she received him all in tears. This determined him to banish from court the scrupulous bishop, and three or four more of the courtiers, who had distinguished themselves in opposing her entrance.

By this time all ranks and classes of the people concurred in hatred towards her. The Parisians, especially, could not forbear giving her the most public marks of it. Whenever she went to Paris, crowds followed her coach, hooting and showering upon her invectives and curses. It could not be pleasing to the nation, to see their greatest and ablest ministers and generals, either degraded into a servile, precarious dependence on a low obscure woman, who was constantly giving marks that she miserably mistook the artifices, by which she governed the king, for a capacity of ruling the kingdom; who had introduced a prodigious venality of offices, wholly to her own profit, and to the ruin of the nation. It was even said, that she had been in treaty with the king of Prussia, for the purchase of the sovereignty of Neufchatel, a province of Switzerland; but this report was apparently without foundation.

It has been observed, that she had all imaginable accomplishments and talents for pleasing. Happy enough to be born with a great share of wit, she not only cultivated it in herself, but, what is more, she loved, or affected to love it, in others. The king himself never passed for having much relish for men of letters; and, indeed, their general silence forms a kind of tacit condemnation. La Pompadour, however, not always to make a blameable use of her interest over him, procured a pension of six thousand livres, (about three hundred pounds) a year, for Crebillon the elder; she obtained another for Madame de Lussan; countenanced and promoted the interest of Marmontel; and kept on fair terms with Voltaire. She was the original Collette, in Rousseau's *Devin de Village*, acted at court, and sent him one hundred pounds on the occasion; of which, however, he would take but forty shillings, saying, it cost him but so long writing, as that sum would subsist him. Nor did she neglect the patronage of the liberal arts. All applications were made through her, in their several branches; and there was not any man eminent in his profession, but what she distinguished and encouraged. She not only visited herself the work-places of those employed in the mechanics arts, but took with her the king, to whom she pointed out and recommended their respective merits. For some she obtained pensions, lodgings in the Louvre, and other advantages and distinctions. The tapestries of the Gobelins, the porcelain manufactory, and the carpet works of the Savonniere, felt her beneficial influence. But she did not fail making a due parade of all those laudable attentions, serving, as they must, to place her in a respectable light with the king, who could not but see the fitness of them, and their tendency to do him honour.

When

When Le Normant de Tourneau, who, in the character of her presumptive father, had taken so much care of her education, was struck with the apoplexy, of which he died, long after she was in favour with the king; on the first news of his danger, she flew to D'Estiolles's, where he was, but insensible and past recovery. The violent signs she gave of affliction on this occasion were, most probably, at least for the greatest part, real and unaffected. She staid fifteen days at this place, having had the precaution to acquaint her husband with her journey, that she might not meet him there. For some years before her death she lost her charms; and the chagrin, which incessantly preyed upon her at the prospect of her blasted ambition, joined to the artifices she used to improve her beauty, increased her indisposition. Her figure was reduced almost to a skeleton; and her constitution had received a shock in the very early part of her advancement. Towards the end of March 1764, she was so thoroughly convinced of her approaching end, that she made her will; after which she wrote to her husband a very affectionate letter, acknowledging all her faults, and begging to see him, in order to be reconciled. But, whether through a just indignation, or a want of the softer feelings of humanity, he sternly declared, that, though he forgave her, he would not be prevailed upon to pay her a visit. Her royal lover shewed no such unkindness: he continued his visits constantly till two days before her death; when, having received the extreme unction, she herself declined seeing him any more. Her death happened in 1764, in the forty-third year of her age; after having reigned two-and-twenty years, without any visible abatement of her influence, sole arbitress of the counsels of one of the greatest monarchs in Europe. Her whole fortune, to the re-
serve

serve of her jewels and a few legacies, she disposed of in favour of her brother.

Her *Memoirs*, written by herself, and published after her death, draw in a very lively and entertaining manner, the picture of the court of Lewis XV: They attribute to her the encouragement given to the porcelain manufactory. If Madame de Pompadour would have made her influence felt this way alone, it would have been well; but she would govern, and she had not the sensibility and love of real glory of Agnes Sorel. Her choice of ministers was directed by such motives as could not render them happy ones, and France might well ask of her, her *Well-Beloved* before she knew him, for they were not the same. Some people believe that she rendered France a great benefit by the expulsion of the Jesuits; which was her work, and that of M. de Choiseul. Some lament it; and think the revolution would never have happened, had it not taken place.

Memoirs of Mde. de Lamballe, &c.

PINELLA (ANTONIA), of Bologna, a famous Painter.

PORCIA, Daughter of Cato of Utica,

APPLIED herself very much to the study of philosophy, and gave strong proofs of an exalted courage; for guessing that Brutus, her husband, was preparing for some grand enterprize, she cut herself with a knife, to try, by her constancy and patience in suffering pain, whether she could keep a secret. At

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which

which Brutus being astonished, lifted up his hands to heaven, and begged the assistance of the gods, that he might live to be a husband worthy of such a wife as Porcia: so he communicated to her the preparations that were making to kill Cæsar. But on the day on which the design was executed, the uneasiness of her mind was so great that it threw her into fainting fits; afterwards, having accompanied him to the sea-shore with the greatest fortitude, she could not forbear shedding tears at the sight of a picture, representing the parting of Hector and Andromache. When she heard that Brutus had killed himself, she followed his example, and died by her own hands, not by a sword, but by swallowing burning coals. When she married Brutus, she was the relict of Bibulus, by whom she had children.

Female Worthies.

PLAUTILLA (BADISSA), *a Nun in the Convent of St. Catherine, of Sienna, in Florence,*

BEGAN by little and little to design, and to imitate the designs of the best masters, so that, to the wonder of every body, she became a miniature painter: in which having shown great genius, she passed on to painting, on a larger scale, historical subjects from sacred history, and considerable works, many of which ornament the churches and houses of Florence.

There was another PLAUTILLA, of Rome, of the house of Bricci, a female architect.

Abec. Fitt.

POTA-

POTAMICÆNA, a Christian Martyr, of Alexandria.

IN the reign of the emperor Severus, the beginning of the third century, a violent persecution raged against the Christians; and as their confessing themselves to be such, alone, subjected them to the greatest torments and to death, they were called upon, when accused, to clear themselves by execrating Christ, and invoking the genius of the emperors and the gods then generally worshipped. Potamicæna, a young woman remarkable for beauty, purity of mind, and firmness in the faith of Christ, suffered very dreadful torments: she was, it is said, a slave, for whom her master had a passion; but not being able to inspire her with the like, he delivered her to the prefect of Egypt, as a Christian. She was scourged very severely, by order of the judge, who threatened her with punishments worse than death. But being still unmoved, she was led to the fire and burned, together with her mother Marcella. The heart of Basilides, a soldier who presided at her execution, was softened; he treated her courteously, and protected her as far as he dared, from the insolence of the mob. She thanked him, and promised that, after her departure, she would intreat the Lord for him. Scalding pitch was poured on her whole body, which she sustained with great patience. Basilides, some time afterwards, declaring himself a Christian, was apprehended, and suffered martyrdom. She was a disciple of Origen; and, as her speech declares, had imbibed some opinions not to be found in the gospel.

Milner's Christian Church.

POTAR-DULU (MARIA-THERESA), *Daughter of
a Royal Secretary at Paris,*

WROTE many beautiful pieces of Poetry; but we do not find that they are collected.

F. C.

POZZO (MODESTA), *called FONTE MODERATA,
a celebrated Venetian Lady; born 1555.*

SHE is the author of a poem, intituled *Il Floridoro*, and another on the Passion and Resurrection of Christ. She also published a book in prose, *De Meriti della Donna*, in which she maintains that the female sex are not inferior in understanding and merit to the male. This book upon *The Merit of Women* was printed immediately after her death, and Father Ribeira has made a eulogium upon her, in his *Theatre of Learned Women*. This lady is said to have had such a surprising memory, that after hearing a sermon, she could repeat it word for word. She was married to an advocate at Venice, named Philip Zonzi, and died 1592. Nicholas Doglioni has written her life.

F. C. &c.

PRAXILLA, *a Sicyonian Dithyrambic Poetess, of whose writing there is a Work, intituled Metrum Praxilleum.*

SHE is said to have flourished in the 32d olympiad, about 492 B. C. and is reckoned by Antipater Thessalus among the nine most famous lyrics.

Female Worthies.

PRE-

PREMONTVAL (MADAME), *born at Paris, 1724,*

THE wife of a writer of considerable repute, in some of whose works she had a share, published some of her own, amongst which is the following:

Le Mechniste Philosophe; Mémoires concernant plusieurs Particularités de la Vie du Dr. Jean Pigeon (her father) *Mathématicien*, 8vo. 1750. She was a great favourite at the Prussian court, for her learning and many other excellent qualities.

F. C.

PRINGIS (MADAME DE), *a learned French Lady, of the 17th Century,*

WROTE *Les Caractères des Femmes; Junie, ou les Sentimens des Romains*; and other works.

F. C.

PRISCILLA, *a Jewish Christian, who was expelled from Italy, with her Husband Aquila, by an Edict of the Emperor Claudius; and settled for some Time at Corinth;*

THERE they became acquainted with St. Paul, who wrought with them as a tent-maker, being of the same occupation; as every Jew, whether rich or poor, was obliged to follow a trade. After the departure of St. Paul, they instructed the eloquent and zealous Apollos in christianity, which he before knew no more of, than what was contained in the system of John the Baptist. Both Priscilla and her husband appear to have been highly esteemed by St. Paul; to have laboured with him, both in a spiritual and temporal sense, at Corinth; and on their return to Rome, some

years after, to have laid the foundation of the Christian church there, before the arrival of an apostle. They also went to Ephesus, and after the departure of St. Paul from that city, remained, steadily going on in pursuit of their holy purpose, in which they were afterwards assisted by their former proselyte, Apollos.

PROBA-FALCONIA, *Author of a Virgilian Canto on the Life of our Saviour, written in the Reign of Theodosius and Honorius.*

THIS lady, who was married to a person of proconsular dignity, was accused by some of having betrayed Rome into the hands of Alaric the Goth; but Cæsar Baronius has fully cleared her from that disloyal imputation.

Grainger.

PRITCHARD (MRS.)

THIS celebrated English actress was, when very young, recommended to Mr. Booth, the manager, who was exceedingly pleased with her manner of reciting; and though then little connected with the theatre, he encouraged her to apply to some other governing person of the stage.

Her first appearance was, it is said, in one of Fielding's pieces, at the Little Theatre, in the Haymarket; then in Goodman's fields; and soon after in Bartholomew Fair, where she gained the applause of the public, by her easy, unaffected manner of speaking.

She was a candidate for theatrical fame in 1733, when the principal actors of Drury-lane revolted from Mr. Highmore, and opened the play-house in
the

the Haymarket. To them she applied for employment; they very gladly embraced so promising an addition to their company. Her genteel person, for she was then young and slender; her attractive countenance, which, in the phrase of Shakespeare, *beat an alarm to love*; her expressive, yet simple manner; her unembarrassed deportment, and proper action; charmed all the spectators, who congratulated themselves on a rising genius, capable of consoling them for the loss of their favourite Oldfield, then lately deceased.

Mr. Fleetwood, who united the two companies, engaged her; but is said, either from pique or prejudice, to have thrust her into characters unworthy of so great a genius. But, by degrees, she convinced the patentee, that it was his interest to have her often seen in parts of importance. Her delivery of dialogue, whether of humour, wit, or mere sprightliness, was never surpassed, if equalled. Not confined to any one walk in acting; she ranged through them all; and, what is singular, discovered a large degree of merit in every distinct class. Her tragic power was eminent, but particularly in characters which required force of expression, and dignity of figure.

She excelled in the Queen-mother of Hamlet, Zara in the Mourning Bride, Merope, Creüsa, and more especially in Queen Katherine, wife of Henry VIII. She gave to all those parts importance by her action, as well as speaking. Her few defects, in tragedy, proceeded from a too loud and profuse expression of grief, and want of grace in her manner: but a natural ease of deportment, and grandeur of person, generally hid this defect from the common spectator. Her great force, in comedy, lay in a middle path between

tween parts of superior life, and those of humour in a lower class; but neither her person nor manners were sufficiently elegant and graceful for the high-bred woman of fashion. In Beatrice, Berinthia, Mrs. Sullen, and all such parts as are thrown into situations of intrigue, gaiety, and mirth, with diversity of humour, wit, and pleasantry, she was inimitably charming. Notwithstanding the fullness of her person, and her advanced age, the town was charmed to the last with her representation of Congreve's delightful portrait of wit, affectation, and good-nature, in Millamant. Her disengaged and easy manner in speaking and action, supplied the want of an elegant form and a youthful countenance. In the course of conversation, upon the most trifling topics, she had an unaccountable method of charming the ear: she uttered her words, as the great poet advises the actor, smoothly and trippingly upon the tongue; and, however voluble in enunciation her part might require her to be, not a syllable of articulation was lost.

Her unblemished conduct in private life justly rendered her the great favourite of the people: few actresses were ever so sincerely beloved, and powerfully patronized, as Mrs. Pritchard.

When she took leave of the public, Garrick, out of respect, gave them, for the last time, his masterly character of Macbeth, which was acted for her benefit. Her action, before and after the commission of the horrid deed, was strongly characteristic: when she snatched the daggers from the remorseful and irresolute Macbeth, despising the agitations of a mind unaccustomed to guilt, and alarmed at the terrors of conscience, she presented to the audience a picture of the most consummate intrepidity in mischief. In
the

the banquet scene, when the guilty king, full of horrors, after the murder of Banquo, by his alarming terrors betrays himself to his guests; her art, in endeavouring to engage the attention of the company, and draw them from the observation of Macbeth's feelings, equalled any thing that was ever seen in the art of acting.

She spoke the epilogue, which was written by Mr. Garrick, with many sobs and tears, which were increased by the generous feelings of a numerous and splendid audience. She retired to Bath, and died there, about four months after, of a mortification in her foot.

If it be a sign of genius to imitate the most exalted parts of nature in description, it surely is no less so, to catch the poet's fire, and exemplify his ideas in elegant recitation and action.

Davies's Memoirs of Garrick.

PUISIEUX (MAGDALEN DARSAUT, WIFE OF
M. DE); *born at Paris*;

CULTIVATED the belles lettres with such success, that her first works are ranked among *chef d'œuvres*. Her works are moral; *Caracteres*; *L'Education du Marquis de Zuloo*; *Mémoires d'un Homme de Bien*; *Conseil à une Amie*, in which there are admirable instructions respecting the education of women. She has also written works of fiction.

F. C.

PUL-

PULCHERIA (ÆLIA), born 399, *Daughter of Arcadius, Emperor of the East, reigned with her Brother Theodosius, a mild, but feeble Prince, who held the Reins of Government with a negligent Hand.*

THE public however was benefited by the vigorous wisdom of his sister, who, though only two years older, maintained, by meekness and discretion, that ascendant over him, which superior capacity always gives. She had devoted herself to a life of virginity, before she was quite fifteen, and persuaded her two younger sisters to do the same. At sixteen she took the name of Augusta ; and, as she had always the prudence to preserve her brother's honour, she governed in his name with much success ; for she was the only descendant of the great Theodosius who possessed any eminence of character. She was sincerely religious, and gave him the honour of completing the destruction of the idolatrous temples and worship, which was due to the spirit, firmness, and yet wise lenity of her measures.

That prudence which in others is the fruit of experience, was in Pulcheria the gift of nature. At one view, which was as sure as it was penetrating, she saw immediately how she ought to act, and executed her purposes with promptitude ; she spoke and wrote elegantly in Greek and Latin. Adorned with all the graces of beauty, she resolved to consecrate herself to the service of God and the state, and divided her time between prayer, works of charity, and the affairs of the empire.

The eastern empire was agitated by factions, when first she stood at its helm ; but it soon enjoyed a perfect peace under her wise administration. She taught
her

her brother to respect the rights of property; inspiring him with this noble maxim, “the more princes abstained from touching the wealth of their people, the greater would be their resources in the wants of the state.”

Weak and irresolute; Theodosius, suffering himself to be guided by his eunuchs, neglected to consult her, and the empire but too soon felt how different a hand held the reins of its government. But he died in his fiftieth year, leaving only a daughter, married to Valentinian III. Pulcheria now remained sole mistress of the Eastern empire, and gave herself in marriage, for political reasons, to Marcian, an old officer in the army, whom she made emperor. She lived two years after, maintaining the same excellent and dignified character; nor does it appear that her religious virtues suffered any diminution till her death, which happened in 444.

Her loss was deeply regretted. She alone had sustained the imperial dignity, under the reign of her weak and imbecile brother; and after his death, had placed the crown on a head worthy to wear it. When her counsels were attended to, the state was happy, and the church triumphant. During her life she was a mother to the poor, and left them her possessions at her death.

Histoire du Bas Empire.

Q.

QUENTIN (MADEMOISELLE DE ST.), *Daughter of a learned Advocate of Paris, at the End of the 17th Century,*

WROTE a Treatise on the Possibility of Corporeal Immortality, with an answer to the objections made to it; and treated her subject with much good sense, and profound depth of argument.

F. C.

QUISTELLI (LUCRETIA), *an Italian Lady, of Mirandola, in the 16th Century,*

WHO learned design and painting of Alex. Allori, and followed the art with much honour and success. She wrote the Lives of some great Painters, which were much esteemed.

Abec Pitt.

R.

RADHIA, *a Moorish Spaniard, of Corduba, the Free-Woman of King Abdelrahman,*

A WOMAN well skilled in the art of speaking; inas-much as she wrote many volumes on Rhetoric. She is said to have lived 107 years, and to have died the 432d year of the Hegira.

Bibliothecæ Arabico-Hispanæ Escorialiensis.

RAM-

RAMBOUILLET (JULIA ANGENNES, MAR-
QUISE DE), *Duchess de Montausier*,

DAUGHTER of the celebrated Madame de Rambouillet, whose hotel, as the rendezvous of wit, learning, and politeness, was celebrated all over Europe. A sort of romantic adoration was paid to the mother and four daughters, whose minds were highly cultivated, and who presided in this scene of elegance and innocent gaiety.

The beautiful Julia, after a long courtship, married the Duke de Montausier, in 1745. She survived him, and became governess to the Dauphin, and lady of honour to the queen of Lewis XIV.

F. C. &c.

RANELAGH (CATHERINE, COUNTESS OF),
*Daughter of the Earl of Corke, and Sister to the Hon.
Robert Boyle, died 1691.*

BISHOP Burnet observes, that she lived the longest, on the most public scene, and made the greatest figure in all the revolutions of these kingdoms for above fifty years, of any woman of that age. That she employed it all in doing good to others, in which she laid out her time, her interest, and her estate, with the greatest zeal, and the most success, that he had ever known. She was indefatigable, as well as dexterous in it; and as her great understanding, and the vast esteem she was in, made all persons in their turns of fortune, desire and value her; so she gave herself a clear title to employ her interest with them, for the service of others, because she never made use of it to any end or design
of

of her own. She was contented with what she had; and though twice stript of it, never moved on her own account, but was the general intercessor for all persons of merit or who were in want. This had in her the better grace, and was both more christian and more effectual, because it was not limited within any narrow compass of parties or relations. “When any party was down,” continues the bishop, “she had credit and zeal enough to serve them, and she employed that so effectually, that in the next turn she had a new stock of credit, which she laid out wholly in that labour of love in which she spent her life. And though some particular opinions might shut her up in a divided communion, yet her soul was never of party. She divided her charities and friendships, both her esteem as well as her bounty, with the truest regard to merit and her own obligations, without any difference made upon the account of opinion. She had, with a vast reach of knowledge and apprehension, an universal affability and easiness of access; an humility, that descended to the meanest persons and concerns; an obliging kindness, and readiness to advise those who had no occasion for any farther assistance from her; and with all those and many other excellent qualities, she had the deepest sense of religion; and the most constant turning of her thoughts and discourses that way, that has been perhaps in our age. Such a sister became such a brother; and it was but suitable to both their characters, that they should have improved the relation under which they were born to the more exalted and endearing one of Friend.”

They both died of a good old age; Mr. Boyle a few

few days after his beloved sister, with whom he had resided in Pall-mall for twenty-three years.

Female Worthies.

RAZILLI (MARIE DE), *of a noble Family in Touraine, died at Paris 1707, aged 83 ;*

ACQUIRED great reputation by her poetical writings, which were greatly esteemed for their elegance of stile and delicacy of sentiment; amongst which were, *Un Placet* (or Petition) *au Roi*, and *Des Lignes à M. le Duc de Noailles*, who was her relation, and presented the first to the king. It was preceded by a request, in prose, in which she makes known the melancholy situation to which she was reduced, as her family had left her but a small portion. The king immediately granted her a pension of 2000 livres; which favour engaged her more than once to sing his conquests. She was called Calliope, because she treated only of heroic subjects.

F. C.

RENIERI (ANGELICA), ANNA, CLORINDA, *Wife of Pietro della Vecchia, a very fine Painter, and LUCRETIA, the Wife of Daniel Vandick, a Painter of Reputation,*

WERE all daughters and scholars of Nicholas Renieri, and excited the envy of the best Venetian painters, by the great success which they had in the art.

Abec. Pitt.

RENYER (CHARLOTTE),

STILED by herself *La Muse Limonadiere*, on account of her being the daughter of one who sold lemonade,
and

and having also married one of that profession, who kept the German coffee-house, in the street of St. Croix, in Paris. She also married a second husband, in the same business, named Bourrette.

Madame Bourrette composed a collection, in prose and versé, under the title of *Recueil en Vers et en Prose*, dedicated to King Stanislaus. This celebrated muse has employed her pen chiefly in praise of those actions and events which have been most interesting to France. But her *Ode to the King of Prussia* was much esteemed, and that great monarch honoured her (through the hands of his ambassador) with a very fine gold etui. This ode was composed before the war of 1755.

Mrs. Thicknesse

RHODOPE, *a celebrated Courtesan, cotemporary with Sappho, whose Brother purchased her when sold for a Slave, and was extravagantly in love with her,*

Is reported to have been a fellow slave with the celebrated Æsop, and to have built one of the pyramids of Egypt. As she was once bathing in the Nile (for she was a native of Naucrates, a city of Egypt) an eagle snatched one of her slippers out of the hands of her waiting-woman, and carrying it to Memphis, where the king sat administering justice in a public place of the city, dropped it in his lap. The king was surprized at the novelty of this incident, and being smitten with the beauty of the slipper, immediately dispatched messengers throughout the country, with orders to bring to him the woman with whom they should find the fellow of that

that slipper: Rhodope being found, was conducted to the king, and by him created queen of Egypt.

Biographia Classica.

RICCOBONI (MARIE LABORAS DE MEZIERES),
the Wife of Francis, the Son of a Madame Riccoboni
who wrote ingeniously,

WAS an actress on the Italian theatre, at Paris, from which she retired in 1761. She is accounted one of the first female writers of France; and from her extended reputation, and her knowledge of the English language, is almost as well known in England as in her own country. She has written many things, but chiefly novels, which are entertaining, animated, and sentimental. Her works ran through many editions during her life, and filled sixteen volumes.

Madame Riccoboni, according to the peculiar fashion of female writers in France, has given some account of her person and character, in the following manner:

“ My stature,” says she, “ is tall, my eyes are black, and my complexion fair; my physiognomy announces candour. When conversing with those I love, my air is lively and gay, but cool and reserved towards strangers. I treat those whom I despise, with contempt and severity, nor have I any thing to say to those with whom I am unacquainted. I am indolent, and lose all my vivacity under the least fatigue of body or mind. My life is uniform and simple, which procures me the blessing of perfect health, which has not been in the least impaired, in spite of much chagrin, and a long and sad subjection. My temper is uneven, depending entirely upon the situation of my mind; my feelings are strongly marked upon my countenance. I

have some friends, but very few; if it had been possible for me to have cultivated many, I could only have cherished a small number. Wit amuses, but does not impose upon me; but the qualities of the heart deeply interest my own. I am not rich; moderation has always seemed to me capable of supplying the place of opulence. I have accustomed myself to the habitude of not looking on myself as poor, by comparing my situation with that of those who possess great fortunes; and not having their desires, I can pass by a thousand things, without feeling myself deprived of them."

Mrs. Thicknesse, with whom she was acquainted, and who was engaged at the time in writing her sketches of the *Lives of celebrated French Ladies*, had wished to know some particulars of her history; in answer to which shespeaks thus: "The particulars of my life would form a short and very insipid article. My passage upon this globe can neither excite nor satisfy the curiosity of any body. The narrow space which I occupy, makes it difficult to perceive whether I inhabit it at all; neither the world nor its amusements had ever any attractions for me, I have lived in a small circle, avoiding equally wits and fools. The desire to distinguish myself, did not render me an author. My first works were anonymous, and those which appeared afterwards would have shared the same fate, if chance had not discovered my secret. The desire I had of quitting an unsuitable situation, which even habit could never render supportable to me; and the hope of being able to procure, by my pen, a part of those comforts and conveniencies I was about to deprive myself of; induced me to wish the publishing my feeble productions. The indulgence they met with,

with, might have procured me an easy competence, if the tolerated piracy encouraged by the booksellers, had not deranged my projects; I have enriched some knaves, but have received little advantage myself from my literary labours. These disagreeable circumstances, added to my natural indolence, make me prefer employing myself in works of embroidery or tapestry, rather than hold a pen for the emolument of those people. I am grieved, not to have an interesting history to tell you; but the life of a rational woman rarely offers facts worthy of attention; mine has not been happy. My youth was spent in sorrow, but that may be the better for me. I sometime hear persons, in the decline of life, make comparisons of the past and present time, recall to their minds former scenes, and complain of the present; for my part, I feel no regret on that account, my present condition appears to me the best which heaven in its goodness has been pleased to allot me. Independent and free, I have lived twenty-five years with a friend (a female friend, of excellent character) whose sense, equality of temper, and amiable character, diffuse a continual comfort and delight to our society; and I enjoy the utmost tranquility. We are strangers to the least disagreement, weariness, or uneasiness of any kind. The word *no* is banished between us; and as we are guided by the same principles, they naturally lead us to the same manner of thinking. So that perpetual harmony reigns in our little household. This is all I am able to inform you of as to myself; and I doubt if, after my death, any more will be known of me." The above letter to Mrs. Thicknesse was in French, but we thought it unnecessary to preserve the text.

The principal of her works are, *The Letters of Fanny Butler*; *Lady Catesby*; *Amelia*; *Madame Sancerre*; *Lord Rivers*; detached pieces; *Sophie de Valiere*; *Le Nouveau Theatre Anglois*; and *the History of the Mqs. de Cressy*.

Mrs. Thicknesse.

ROBERT (MADAME), *Daughter of M. de Roumier, a Man of good Family in Provence, but of a small Fortune.*

MADAME Robert received a most excellent education, for which she was chiefly indebted to the instructions of Fontenelle, who took infinite pleasure in improving her genius and taste for letters. She wrote many works of fiction, both amusing and instructive. *La Paysanne Philosophe*, which is called her best; *La Voix de la Nature*; *Les Voyages de Mylord Céton dans les Sept Planetes*; *Nicole de Beauvais, ou l'Amour vaincu par la Reconnoissance*; *Les Ondins*, &c.

The voyages of my Lord Céton, an English Nobleman, and his sister, through the Seven Planets, conducted by a *familiar* or *genius*, in imitation of the Mentor of Fénélon, is amusing and instructive; and gives occasion to much playful satire, levelled at the inhabitants of this planet. The description of the moon particularly, is that of Paris.

In all the works of this lady there appear a fruitful imagination, strong sense, and a tone of sentiment which interests. Her stile is simple and natural, but energetic.

Mrs. Thicknesse.

ROBIN-

ROBINSON (MARY), *Daughter of Mr. Darby, an American Merchant, who, having sustained great losses, accepted the command of a 74-gun Ship, in the service of Russia.*

LEFT under the care of her mother, the latter, to secure her from the dangers her great beauty made to be feared, at the age of fifteen, indiscreetly married her to Mr. Robinson, a young Templar, from whom, after a few years, she was separated. Her first introduction to public notice and admiration, as an actress, was under the immediate auspices and indefatigable instruction of Mr. Garrick, in the year 1777. Here her beauty was universally spoken of as a phenomenon. Her air, her step, her carriage, had a lightness, an airiness, and a grace, which, especially assisted as they were by the excellence of her understanding, and the playfulness of her imagination, almost every one who saw her admired.

Having been induced, after a very short experiment of the theatrical life, by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, to quit the stage, her genius soon opened to itself a new career. She became a poet; and few writers of her own day are confessed to have courted the Muses more successfully. Her poem of *Sight*, in particular, and her Stanzas, *written between Dover and Calais* (*Vide Poems by Mrs. Robinson, in 2 vols. 8vo.*), would do honour to the pen of almost any English poet of the present century. The ease with which she poured forth her unpremeditated verse was none of its least extraordinary features. Some of these have lately been collected into a little volume, under the title of *Lyric Tales*.

The elegancies of her house, and the charms of her conversation, were for many years the magnet that drew around her a continual resort of those persons who were most distinguished in art, or brilliant in genius, in the times in which she flourished.

For the last twelve or thirteen years, she was the martyr of a severe and incurable rheumatism, in consequence of which she became a cripple. Almost all her prose literary compositions were the offspring of this period.

The latter years of her life were darkened by the embarrassment, of her circumstances; much of this was occasioned by her inconsiderate involving herself for the convenience of others. In 1778 she commenced her literary career by a musical farce, called the *Lucky Escape*, which was followed by *Captivity*, a poem; *Ainsi va le Monde*, a poem; *Monodies to the Memory of the Queen of France*, and *Sir Joshua Reynolds*; *Sappho and Phaon*, in a series of *Legitimate Sonnets*; *Modern Manners*; *Poems*, in two volumes; *The Sicilian Lover*, a tragedy; *Vancenza*, a romance; *The Widow*, and *Angelina*, novels; *Herbert de Sevrac*, a romance of the present century; *Walsingham*; *The Natural Daughter*; and *The False Friends*, novels. Several popular Pamphlets and Poems, under the signatures of Louisa, Maria, Julia, Laura, Oberon, &c. Mrs. Robinson was undoubtedly a woman of great abilities, and mistress of a most splendid poetical imagination; but some of her novels betray signs of haste and undigested thought, and her judgement seems to have preferred feelings to justice in her morality; yet there are many noble sentiments to be found there, as well as in her muse, which was melancholy, tender, and harmonious. Her life has lately been published, begun by herself, and concluded by her daughter.

daughter, a young lady of great beauty, who wrote also *The Shrine of Bertha*.

ROCHECHOUARD (MADAME DE), *a cotemporary of the Marchioness de Vielbourg,*

WAS a woman of extraordinary merit. One of the most admired productions of her pen is intituled *Question sur la Politesse*, published in Holland, by Monsieur St. Hyacinthe. She died 1704, aged 59.

Mrs. Thicknesse.

ROCHE-GUILHEM (MADEMOISELLE DE LA),
born 1663, died 1710.

THIS lady was not much beloved by her cotemporaries, nor did they do her the justice she seems to have merited, which appears to have arisen from her being a protestant, as, in her *Life of Julia de Farnese*, she speaks with much satirical freedom of the vices of Pope Alexander VI. She wrote also *L'Histoire des Favorites; Dernières Œuvres de Mademoiselle de la Roche Guilhem, contenant plusieurs Histoires Galantes; Les Aventures Grenadines; Arioviste*; an Heroic Romance, in the stile of Mademoiselle de Scuderi. She mixed fiction with truth, but wrote in a pleasant and animated manner.

F. C. &c.

ROCHES (MADELEINE and CATHERINE,) *born in Poictou, celebrated for their Beauty and literary Accomplishments.*

CATHERINE never would marry, because she did not chuse

chuse to leave Madeleine, her mother, whom she tenderly loved. They wrote many elegant pieces of poetry, and were complimented by many authors, in different languages. They died the same day, of the plague, in 1587.

F. C.

ROCHIER (AGNES DU), *a very pretty Girl, and the only Daughter of a rich Tradesman of Paris.*

HER father left her a handsome fortune; but at eighteen years of age she turned recluse, in the parish of St. Oportune, 1403. Those were called recluses, whether maids or widows, who built themselves a little chamber, adjoining to the wall of some church. The ceremony of their seclusion was performed with great pomp: the church was hung with tapestry; the bishop celebrated mass pontifically, preached, and afterwards went himself to seal the door of the little chamber, after having copiously sprinkled it with holy water: there remained nothing but a little window, from whence the pious solitary heard the offices of the church, and received the necessaries of life. Agnes du Rochier died at the age of ninety-eight.

The errors of a well-meaning mind must be looked upon with indulgence; but self-infliction, however heroically borne, can lay no just claim to the praise of that heroic fortitude, which supports with patience great and unavoidable evils—and which it is intended to imitate.

St. Foix.---Historical Essays upon Paris, &c.

ROHAN,

ROHAN (MARIE ELENORE DE), *Daughter of the Duke de Montbazon; born 1628.*

A PRINCESS illustrious by her birth, celebrated for her many amiable virtues, and whose literary productions are highly esteemed by those who read books of piety and devotion. Brought up in a convent, she contracted an inclination very early for retirement, and chose a religious life in preference to any other; though her exquisite beauty, birth, fortune, and accomplishments, were such as could not fail of ensuring her the admiration and attention of the world. In vain did her friends endeavour to oppose this resolution; her father, though much afflicted, could not resist the prayers and tears of a daughter he so tenderly loved, but consented to it, as her happiness seemed so much to depend on the choice she had made. She was soon after professed in the Benedictine convent, at Montargis, where her virtues, talents, and superior understanding, procured her the esteem and veneration of all the community; the oldest and gravest among them reposing their secrets in her breast. She was soon after named Abbess of the community of Caen, a dignity which she declined accepting with great humility; but was, at length, obliged to yield to the repeated entreaties of the superiors of that convent. Mlle. de Rohan, without any ambition, or the least presumption, was the only one who appeared ignorant of her superior excellencies. She conducted her flock with meekness, humility, and tenderness. Her heart was tender and susceptible; her mind elevated and sublime, with a firmness not to be shaken, of which she gave singular proofs in maintaining the rights and privileges of the Abbey. But the sea air not agreeing with her constitution, and her health being considerably injured,

injured, she became so languid and weak, and was in so dangerous a condition, that the physicians declared nothing but a change of air could possibly save her life. Upon which account she was, with the utmost difficulty, prevailed upon to exchange her abbey for that of Malnoue, near Paris. When the day arrived for her departure, nothing could equal her affliction in separating from her sisterhood, whom she affectionately loved; she embraced them all with great tenderness, bedewing them with her tears, and was so overcome as to be unable to speak. She was so renowned for her virtues and holy life, that they sent attestations of it to Rome; upon which, the pope declared publicly his intention of canonizing this young abbess. In 1669 the religious of the Benedictines de Notre Dame de Consolation du Chausse-Midi intreated Madame de Rohan to take upon her the government of their convent, to which she consented, but did not neglect, by that means, the management of her own abbey de Malnoue.

She composed, under the title of *Morale de Solomon*, a paraphrase on the Proverbs; a discourse on Wisdom, and many other tracts; and such are the productions of Madame de Rohan, that it was said “The royal blood had found in her a royal soul.” In short, she united modesty and amiable manners, to wisdom, solidity, and learning. She died, sincerely lamented, in the year 1681, in the convent du Chausse-Midi.

This life is extracted from Mrs. Thicknesse’s *Lives of French Ladies*, to which in other places I have been so much obliged.

ROLAND

ROLAND (MADAME), *only child of Phlipon, a Parisian Engraver; born 1754;*

WAS from infancy an extraordinary child: though she was taught by masters every polite accomplishment, her education may be said to be of her own forming, as she herself chose her books, or rather read whatever fell in her way. Proud, generous, tender, obstinate, and romantic, perhaps by nature, her feelings were continually afloat. Occupied by turns in elegant arts, and household duties, when not engaged in her reading, her susceptible mind had many bold flights, which varied the uniform tenor of her life. At the age of eleven, in consequence of a strong predilection for a cloister, which she had nourished in secret, her parents sent her for a while to board at one, where the rules were not strict. Here she staid a twelvemonth, and then passed another with her grandmother.—She still persevered in her intention of becoming in due time a nun. But on her return home, she read some controversial writings, which led her by turns from one belief to another, till she became at last a complete sceptic. With a considerable portion of taste and vanity, she felt delighted with the pictures of former times, as presented to her by the classical writers, and personified by her own imagination. By comparison with this ideal world, the absurdities, the injustice, and selfish despotism of mankind, filled her with double abhorrence; she began to long for that republican government, which in Greece and Rome was connected with heroism, politeness, and the fine arts. In 1775 she lost an excellent and beloved mother. This incident made it necessary for her to seek mental occupation, with even yet more avidity:

avidity: she began to write her thoughts, without any intentions of commencing author; and in consequence daily improved. Her connections extended, and her abilities procured her many valuable friends.

The same year the celebrated Roland, who resided at Amiens in an official capacity, visited at a house where he heard much of Mademoiselle Phlipon, and saw and admired her picture. As he repaired every winter to the capital, he requested letters of introduction, and received one from her friend, who had lived at the same convent, and carried on a regular correspondence with her. "I send you this letter," said she, "by the philosopher, of whom I have made mention to you sometimes, *M. Roland de la Platiere*, an enlightened man, of simple manners, who can only be reproached for his great admiration of the ancients, at the expense of the moderns, whom he undervalues.

On his arrival, he went to her father's house, and found her in mourning. Her afflictions had tinted her lovely countenance with a soft and tender melancholy, which proved highly interesting to her philosophical visitor, who was captivated at the sight of a handsome woman, of twenty-one years of age; he himself, at this period, appeared to be rather more than forty, tall in his person, negligent in his attitudes, and with that kind of *rust* about him, which usually accompanies studious men.

In 1776, he made preparations for visiting Italy, and as he had by this time conceived a great regard for his new acquaintance, he deposited all his manuscripts in her hands, which were to be at her disposal, if any misfortune should happen to him in the course

course of his journey; a conspicuous mark of his esteem, which affected her greatly, and laid the foundation for her regard.

On his return, he repeated his visits, and an intimate friendship was soon established between them: but when, at the end of five years, he pressed her to marriage, she at first declined it, from the most generous motives: she imagined the union might not be agreeable to his family, and she knew that it could not be advantageous; for though brought up to expect a great dowry, an income of five hundred livres a year, and her wardrobe, constituted her sole fortune.

Her father, who was perhaps afraid of being questioned by a son-in-law, concerning the property which he had dissipated, refused his consent to the union, after that of his daughter had been obtained, in consequence of which she retired to a convent, and led an abstemious frugal life. M. Roland, affected, on his return to town, at seeing her appear at the grate, insisted on her immediately becoming his wife; and, after obtaining his suit, loved her more in proportion as he became better acquainted with her many estimable qualities. Her youth and beauty made it necessary to be very circumspect with a man of a suspicious and reserved disposition; but by constantly remaining in his presence, occupied in assisting him, or in congenial employments, she effectually inspired him with confidence: though sometimes wearied with an austerity ill suited to her years and lively imagination, she concealed her *ennui*, and besides assisting him, went through a course of natural history, applied herself to the study of botany; and, as his health was very delicate, did not scruple to superintend the management of the table, or prepare such dishes with her own hands, as were likely to agree with him.

She became a mother and a nurse, without ceasing to par-

participate in the literary labours of her husband, who was intrusted with a considerable part of the New Encyclopedia. They never quitted their study, but in order to visit the neighbouring country; during those solitary rambles, Madame Roland made an *Herbal* of the plants of Picardy, and a taste for aquatick botany produced a little work on that subject, called *L'Art du Tourbier*.

In 1784, they visited England, and in 1787 made the tour of Germany.

On the death of his mother, they resided chiefly at Roland's family mansion near Lyons, and in this sylvan retreat Roland pursued his literary labours in an uninterrupted succession, while his amiable consort entered into all the details of rural economy. The neighbouring peasantry in her found a friend, during the hour of distress, and she became the physician of the adjacent country.

In 1789, she nursed him in a severe illness; sat up six days and nights, without either sleeping or changing her clothes; and attended him with uncommon tenderness during a convalescence of six months.

At length the period of the revolution now arrived; in which Roland soon distinguished himself by his talents, and still more by his inflexible integrity; he was employed in an important mission to the constituent assembly; and at length appointed minister of the home department. In this situation the talents of his wife were of great use to him. She secretly wrote several of his treatises and letters. The famous one to the King, was her's, and was simple, energetic, and eloquent. On which he and his companions were dismissed. No sooner had he received this intimation, than he instantly communicated it to the assembly; and the deputies, on reading a copy of
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of his letter, unanimously voted that he retired with the thanks and gratitude of his country.

At length on the fatal 10th of August, when the king and royal family were made prisoners, Roland, Clavieres, and Servan, the ministers who wished to prevent this catastrophe, were recalled, and he again resumed his labours. But when a few sanguinary men dipped their hands in the blood of the clergy and aristocracy, after mock trials, he and the deputies of the Gironde complained aloud, and endeavoured to bring those concerned in the September massacres to condign punishment.

Roland therefore became very unpopular. His house, formerly revered as if it had been the sanctuary of a divinity, was now treated with outrage; his person, and that of his wife, were threatened with every indignity; and the lives of both were frequently in imminent danger. They were twice prevailed upon by their friends to sleep from home, but resolved not to comply with any future solicitations of the same kind. So great however, were their fears, that Madame Roland always had pistols under her pillow.

On this occasion, the populace were inflamed by the most diabolical arts. Roland was at one time represented as being a royalist; at another, he was connected with the commotions of La Vendée, which now began to wear a terrifying appearance; and it was even said, that he was in league with the Duke of Brunswick. It was also industriously circulated, that he was an *ex-noble*, and longed for the return of the ancient government.

Roland, who remained in office as long as he could act with honour, at length resigned, that his name might not be employed to countenance crimes, the very mention of which struck him with horror.

He found it also necessary to leave Paris, and conceal himself,

himself, in order to preserve his life. He was instigated to this by Madame Roland, who, trusting to her innocence and her sex, remained at home. But she was denounced, and although claimed by her section, and even under its protection, was arrested and carried to prison. At the end of a few days she was set at liberty, under pretext that the necessary forms were not complied with; but this was only to render her more completely miserable, as she had no sooner put her foot within her own door, than she was once more seized and conveyed to another place of confinement.

During her imprisonment, she wrote *Historical Memoirs*, which were afterwards destroyed, and her eloquent, and as it were single-hearted *Appeal to impartial Posterity*, which must ever remain a testimony of her great talents, and enthusiastic pursuit of what she deemed her duty. They possess the perspicuity and naiveté of truth. It is impossible not to respect and admire her. In this retreat she also wrote a remonstrating Letter to Robespierre.

Intrepid and serene, though aware of her danger, no circumstances altered the equanimity of her soul.—With flowers, of which she was always fond, books, and her pen, she passed unrepiningly hours of suspense which might leave a philosopher impatient. She strove to occupy and amuse herself; and had made it a principle, never to lament idly what she could not avoid, or sink under circumstances. She wrote well in English and Italian, and studied the literature of each country. She begged of a friend to procure her laudanum, as she considered her fate as decided, when the period arrived, to disappoint her executioners, not to expedite her own death. She, however, considered of it better before the time came. When in the presence of
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any one, she was calm, dignified, and eloquent; but, alone—tender recollections would cause her to weep for hours. She could not but feel for her husband, her daughter, and even for herself.—A mind so feeling, and so warm an imagination, could no remain cold to what she was going to suffer. On the day of her execution, dressed in white, her long dark hair flowing on her shoulders, she went cheerfully to her death, encouraging her companions, and exclaimed, “Oh, Liberty, what crimes are committed in thy name!”

No sooner did the account of this murder reach the ears of her husband, than, as she a little before her execution had prophesied, he prepared for his fate; and, lest a female friend, who had risked her life to preserve his, by affording him an asylum, should suffer, he left her hospitable mansion, and shot himself, on the great road to Rouen, in 1793, in his sixtieth year.

Anecdotes of the Founders of the Revolution.

Her own Memoirs.

ROPER (MARY), *Daughter of William Roper and Margaret, the excellent and favourite Child of Sir Thomas More, and the most accomplished Woman of the Age.*

SHE was married to one Mr. Clerk, and afterwards to Mr. James Basset; and, being from her childhood instructed in languages, was mistress both of the Greek and Latin, and left behind her some specimens of her abilities, viz. *Orations in Greek and Latin*, translated into English by John Monser; *The Ecclesiastical History of Eusebius*, a translation from the Latin into English, M. S. &c.

Dodd's Church History.

HERE we may add some further account of MARGARET ROPER, her mother, who, under her maiden name, has been too slightly mentioned; and first,

Erasmus says, “ More hath built, at Chelsea, a commodious house, where he converseth affably with his family, his wife, son, and daughter-in-law, his three daughters, and their husbands, with eleven grand-children: there is not any man living so loving to his children as he: and such is the excellence of his temper, that whatsoever happeneth that could not be prevented, he loveth it so as though nothing could happen more happily. You would say, there was in that place Plato’s academy; but I do the house an injury, in comparing it to Plato’s academy, wherein there were only disputations of numbers and geometrical figures, and sometimes of moral virtues, I should rather call the house a school or university of Christian religion; for there is none therein but readeth or studieth the liberal sciences; their especial care is piety and virtue; there is no quarrelling nor intemperate words heard, none seen idle: which household discipline that worthy gentleman doth not govern by proud words, but with all kind and courteous benevolence; every body performeth his duty, yet is there always alacrity: neither is sober mirth any thing wanting, &c.”

Mrs. Roper had a ready wit, a quick conception, tenacious memory, a fine imagination, and was very happy in her sentiments and way of expressing herself upon all occasions. Under the tuition of learned masters, she became a perfect mistress of the Greek and Latin tongues, and well acquainted with philosophy, astronomy, physic, arithmetic, logic, rhetoric, and music.

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The several letters her father wrote to her, will be a perpetual testimony of his high esteem for her great learning and distinguished abilities.

So fond was Sir Thomas of this his darling daughter, that his life in a manner was wrapped up in her's. Contrary to all expectation, she was restored to perfect health, after a very dangerous illness; had it been otherwise, her father solemnly protested he never would have meddled with any worldly matters after.

About 1528, in the 20th year of her age, she was very happily married to William Roper, of Eltham, in Kent, Esq.; a gentleman whom Erasmus stiles *Eruditissimum Roperum*, a lover of learning, and who studied the same things as they did; which produced a cordial and indissoluble friendship through the whole family, who lived all together, with happiness not to be expressed, till the time that Sir Thomas was taken into custody, imprisoned in the Tower, and at last cut off, in such a manner as to be the subject of amazement to all Europe.

By this gentleman she had two sons, and three daughters; of whose education she took the same care as had been taken of her own. The famous Roger Ascham tells us, that she was very desirous of having him for their tutor; but he would not then leave the university.

She was personally known to, and frequently corresponded with the great Erasmus, who highly valued her parts and learning, stiling her *Britanniæ Decus*; insomuch that when her father had sent him a very valuable present of a picture, representing himself and his whole family, drawn by Hans Holbein, Erasmus returned him his most grateful acknowledgements for such an acceptable present, in a Latin

epistle to this lady ; in which he tells her, that nothing could give him a more sensible pleasure, than he had in the view of the picture he had just received, wherein a family he so much respected, was so exactly delineated, especially as it was done by one he had recommended to her father; adding, that though he knew every person represented in the picture at first sight, yet he was most pleased with her's, which brought to mind all the excellent qualities he had long admired in her. She soon returned the compliment in an elegant epistle. Though he had a vast number of noble patrons, who would gladly have had their names and memories perpetuated in his works, he chose to dedicate to this young lady some Hymns of Prudentius.

As she had in her younger days been very assiduous in acquiring the learned languages ; afterwards she was eager in the studies of philosophy, astronomy, physic, and the holy scriptures. The two last of which were recommended to her by her father, as the employment of the remaining part of her life. A little before the king's divorce, Sir Thomas resigned the great seal, that he might have no concern in that affair, which he did not approve.

This happy society was soon after dissolved, each going to their respective places of abode ; only Mrs. Roper and her husband contrived to live in the next house to her father. But even this continued not long ; for the oath of supremacy being tendered to him, on his refusal to take it, he was committed to the custody of the abbot of Westminster, from whence he was soon after sent to the Tower, to the inexpressible affliction of Mrs. Roper ; who by her incessant entreaties at last got leave to make him a
visit

visit there ; where she used all the arguments, reason, and eloquence she was mistress of, to bring him to a compliance with the oath, notwithstanding she herself took it with this exception, “ as far as would stand with the law of God,” that if it had been possible she might have saved his life : but all proved ineffectual, his conscience being dearer to him than any worldly consideration whatever ; even that of his favourite daughter’s peace and happiness.

Dr. Knight, in his *Life of Erasmus*, says, “ that after sentence of death was passed on Sir Thomas, as he was going back to the Tower, she rushed through the guards and crouds of people, and came pressing towards him ; at such a sight, as courageous as he was, he could hardly bear up under the surprize his passionate affection for her raised in him ; for she fell upon his neck, and held him fast in the most endearing embraces, but could not speak one word, great griefs having the stupifying quality of making the most eloquent dumb. The guards, though justly reputed an unrelenting crew, were much moved at this sight, and therefore were more willing to give Sir Thomas leave to speak to her, which he did in these few words : ‘ My most dear Margaret, bear with patience, nor grieve any longer for me. It is the will of God, and therefore must be submitted to ;’ and then gave her a parting kiss. But after she was withdrawn ten or a dozen feet off, she came running to him again, fell upon his neck, but grief stopped her mouth. Her father looked wistfully upon her, but said nothing, the tears trickling down his cheeks, a language too well understood by his distressed daughter, though he bore all this without the least change of countenance ; but just when he was to take his

final leave, he begged her prayers to God for him, and took his farewell."

After Sir Thomas was beheaded, she took care for the interment of his body in the chapel of the Tower; and afterwards procured its removal, to be buried at Chelsea, as he in his lifetime had appointed. His head having remained about fourteen days on London Bridge, and being to be cast into the Thames to make room for others, she bought it, lest, as she stoutly affirmed to the council, being afterwards summoned before them for the same matter, it should be food for fishes. She likewise felt the fury of the king's displeasure, on her father's score, being herself committed to prison; but after a short confinement, and after they had in vain endeavoured to terrify her with menaces, she was released, and sent to her husband.

She was, saith Mr. More, most like her father both in favour and wit, and proved indeed a most rare woman for learning, sanctity and secrecy, and therefore her father trusted her with all his secrets. She corrected by her own sagacity, without the help of any manuscript, a controverted place in St. Cyprian, as Pamelian and John Coster testify, instead of *nisi vos severitatis*, restoring *nervos severitatis*.

Besides great numbers of Latin epistles, orations, and poems, sent to and dispersed among the learned of her acquaintance, she left written,

An Oration to answer Quintilian, defending that rich man, whom he accuseth for having poisoned a poor man's bees with certain venomous flowers in his garden, with such admirable wisdom, and fine elocution, that it may justly stand in competition with his.

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She also wrote two declarations, which her father and she translated into Latin so elegantly, that one could hardly judge which was the best.

She wrote likewise a treatise of the Four last things, with so much judgment and strong reasoning, that her father sincerely protested, it was better than the discourse he had written upon the same subject; and perhaps this was the reason why he never finished it. She translated *Eusebius's* Ecclesiastical History out of Greek into Latin, but was prevented in the publication of it by Bishop Christopherson, a noted Grecian, who, at that time, was engaged in the same task. This laborious performance was afterwards translated out of Latin into English, by her daughter Mary.

She survived her father nine years; was sixteen years the wife of Mr. Roper; and dying about the 36th year of her age, 1544, was buried, as she had desired, with her father's head in her arms, (which she had carefully preserved in a leaden box) at St. Dunstan's church, in Canterbury, in a vault under a chapel joining to the chancel, being the burial place of the Ropers.

Mr. Roper, who lived thirty-three years a widower, was buried in the same vault.

Female Worthies.

ROSA (ANNA DI), *an Italian, surnamed Anella di Massinassi, from her Master,*

PAINTED history with great success. She died at the age of thirty-six, the victim of jealousy; being poisoned

gnarded by Augustino Beltrano, her husband, who was hurried away by unjust suspicions.

Madame Genlis.

ROSAMOND CLIFFORD, *the fair and unfortunate Mistress of Henry II. in the 12th Century,*

FROM whose history, whether fabulous or true, innumerable little poems and dramatic pieces have been written.

The anxiety which he must have had in the progress of his life, to conceal this amour from the high-spirited Eleanor, gave rise, probably, to Brompton's tale of the bower of Woodstock, and of Rosamond's death by poison. We know not exactly when she died; but we are told that her body was found, near Godstow nunnery, cased in leather, (like that of Henry I.) and then in lead, and that when opened, a very sweet smell came out of it.

The tomb of Rosamond, lighted by many wax tapers, and shaded by a gay canopy, offended the zeal of St. Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, in 1300.—“ Dig up her body,” said the stern prelate, “ and bury her out of the church, lest her example cause evil to her sex; for, after all, what was she but a harlot?”

Andrew's Great Britain.

ROSERES (ISABELLA DE JOYA, or DE), *a Spanish Lady, of the 16th Century.*

“ IT is related that she preached in the cathedral of Barcelona, to the admiration of a crowded audience. (I suppose the prelate, who allowed of such a novelty,

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was of opinion that the apostle's injunction, in the first Epistle to the Corinthians, against women speaking in the church, admits of some exceptions, equally with that in the first Epistle to Timothy, against their teaching; it being certain, from the Acts, that Priscilla, a fellow labourer with the same apostle, instructed Apollos in the doctrine of the gospel). Afterwards Isabella went to Rome, in the pontificate of Paul III. She solved many knotty points in the books of the subtle Scotus, before the whole college of cardinals, and highly to their satisfaction. But an honour incomparably greater is, her having, in that capital, brought over to the Christian faith, a considerable number of Jews."

Father Feejoo.

ROSNIDA, a Saxon, born in Germany; lived under Lotharius I. a Nun, at Gandresensis, in the Diocese of Hildemensis,

WROTE many works, some on religious matters, addressed to her sister nuns.—Besides which, *The Lives of Holy Women*; *The Life of the Virgin Mary*, in elegiac verse; six comedies; a poem, in hexameter verse, of the *Acts of the Otho Cæsars*, &c.

ROSSI (PROPERTIA DE); born at Bologna, at the Close of the 15th Century;

WAS not only versed in sculpture, but professed painting and music, in both of which she had reached no common excellence. Her first works were carvings in wood, and on peach-stones, eleven of which were in the museum of the Marquis Grassi, at Bologna, each repre-

resenting, on one side one of the apostles, and on the other several saints. In these minute attempts having gained universal applause, she then gave a public proof of her genius, in *Two Angels*, which she finished in marble, for the front of the church of St. Petronius. A bust of Count Guido Pepoli was equally admired. The rules of perspective and architecture were not only familiar to her, but she is known to have sketched many designs in those arts; yet with all those talents, and unrivalled fame, Propertia was most unfortunate. In early life, she had been married without sympathy, and had fixed her affections on one whose heart was totally insensible. As her health was daily yielding to despair, she undertook a bas-relief of the story of Joseph and Potiphar's wife, which she lived just long enough to finish, and died young in 1530. It was at once a monument of her hopeless passion and admirable skill.

Dallaway's *Anecdotes of the Arts*.

ROWE (ELIZABETH), *eldest of three Daughters of Mr. Walter Singer, a Gentleman of good Family, at Ilchester, in Somersetshire, and a Dissenting Minister; she was born 1674.*

TILL the death of his wife, her father resided at Ilchester, but soon after removed into the neighbourhood of Frome, in the same county, where he had an estate, and was highly respected. The pious and exemplary life of this good man seems to have had great effect on his daughter's mind, which was religiously inclined from her childhood.—In her *Devout Exercises of the Heart*, published by Dr. Watts, she says “ I humbly hope I have a rightful claim ; thou art my God, and the
God

God of my religious ancestors, the God of my mother, the God of my pious father : dying and breathing out his soul, he gave me to thy care; he put me in thy gracious arms, and delivered me up to thy protection; he told me thou wouldst never leave nor forsake me; he triumphed in thy long experienced faithfulness and truth; and gave his testimony for thee with his latest breath."

Miss Singer gave early indications of a taste for the sister arts, poetry and painting. She began to write verses at twelve years of age; and loved the pencil, when she had hardly strength and steadiness of hand sufficient to guide it; and, in her infancy, one may almost venture to say so, would squeeze out the juices of herbs to serve her instead of colours. Mr. Singer perceiving her fondness for this art, was at the expence of a master to instruct her in it; and it never ceased to be her amusement at times, until her death.

But her strongest bent was to poetry and writing. Poetry, indeed, was the most favourite employment of her youth. So prevalent was her genius this way, that her very prose hath all the charms of verse, without the fetters; the same fire and elevation, the same bright images, bold figures, a rich and flowing diction. She could hardly write a familiar letter but it bore the stamp of a poet. In the year 1696, the twenty-second of her age, a collection of her poems, on various occasions, was published at the desire of two of her friends, to which the signature of Philomela was affixed. Though many of these poems are of a religious kind, and all of them consistent with the strictest regard to the rules of virtue; yet some things in them gave her no little uneasiness in advanced life. Not satisfied to have done nothing that injured the cause
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of virtue, she was displeased with herself for having written any thing that did not directly promote it.

Of her two sisters, one died in childhood; the other survived to her twentieth year. She had the same extreme passion for books, chiefly those of medicine, in which art she arrived to a considerable insight.

What first introduced her to the notice of the noble family at Longleat, was a little copy of verses, with which they were so highly delighted as to express a curiosity to see her; and the friendship that commenced at that time, subsisted ever after; not more to her honour, who was the favourite of persons, so much superior to her in the outward distinctions of life, than to the praise of their judgment and taste, who knew how to prize, and took a pleasure to cherish such blooming worth. She was not then twenty. Her *Paraphrase of the 38th Chapter of Job* was written at the request of Bishop Kenn, and gained her a great deal of reputation.

She had no other tutor for the French and Italian languages, than the Honourable Mr. Thynne, son to the Lord Viscount Weymouth, who willingly took that task upon himself, and had the pleasure to see his fair scholar improve so fast under his lessons, that in a few months she was able to read Tasso's *Jerusalem* with great ease.

Her merit, and the charms of her person and conversation, procured her many admirers; and among others it is said that the celebrated Prior made his addresses to her. There was certainly much friendship, if not love between them; and Mr. Prior's answer to her *Pastoral* on those subjects, gives room to suspect, that there was something more than friendship on his side. He likewise addressed the poem which follows that in
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his works to her. But Mr. Thomas Rowe was the object of her choice. He was a man of uncommon parts and learning, author of *eight Lives of the Ancients*, in continuation of Plutarch, which were published, and afterwards translated into French.

They were married 1710, in her 36th year. The almost saint-like innocence of her life, the felicity of her natural disposition, and the superior sprightliness of her temper, which she always retained, seem to have prolonged the period, not only of her beauty, but youth, beyond their ordinary limits. The appearances of age had not time to steal upon a mind engaged only in the contemplation of sublime and noble subjects. This observation may seem misplaced; but Mr. Rowe was but twenty-three. Though not a regular beauty, she possessed a large measure of the charms of her sex. She was of a moderate stature, her hair a fine auburn, and her eyes of a darkish grey, inclining to blue, and full of fire. Her complexion was very fair, and a natural rosy blush glowed in her cheeks. She spoke gracefully, and her voice was exceedingly sweet and harmonious, perfectly suited to that gentle language which always flowed from her lips. But the softness and benevolence of her aspect is beyond all description: it inspired irresistible love, yet not without some mixture of that awe and veneration which distinguished sense and virtue, apparent in the countenance, are wont to create.

On the marriage of these two accomplished persons alike favourites of nature and fortune, a learned friend of Mr. Rowe's wrote a Latin epigram, which was translated:

No more, proud Gallia, bid the world revere
 Thy learned pair, Le Fevre and Dacier;
 Britain may boast this happy day unites
 Two nobler minds in Hymen's sacred rites:
 What they have sung, while all th'inspiring Nine
 Exalt the beauties of the verse divine,
The former (humble critics of the strain)
 Shall bound their fame, to comment and explain.

Mr. Rowe had not a robust natural constitution, which was also impaired by intense application. In the latter end of 1714, he appeared to labour under all the symptoms of a consumption. This fatal distemper, after having confined him for some months, put a period to his life, 1715, in his 28th year. He died at Hampstead. The elegy she wrote on his death, is deservedly ranked amongst the most admirable of her poetical works.

She expressed to the last moments of her life the highest veneration for his memory, and a particular regard and esteem for his relations; several of whom she honoured with a long and most intimate friendship. A short time before her death, she shewed how incapable she was of forgetting him, by shedding fresh tears at the mention of his name.

It was only out of regard to Mr. Rowe, that with his society she was willing to be at London during the winter season, and, as soon after his decease as her affairs would permit, she indulged her unconquerable inclination for solitude, by retiring to Frome, in Somersetshire, in the neighbourhood of which place the greatest part of her estate lay. When she forsook the town, she determined to return to it no more, but to spend the remainder of her life in an absolute retirement; yet on some few occasions she thought it her duty to violate
 this

this resolution. In compliance with the importunate request of the Honourable Mrs. Thynne, she passed some months with her in London, after the death of her daughter, the Lady Brooke; and, on the melancholy occasion of the decease of Mrs. Thynne herself, she could not dispute the commands of the countess of Hertford, who earnestly desired her to reside some time with her at Marlborough, to soften, by her conversation and friendship, the severe affliction of the loss of so excellent a mother: and I think, once or twice, the power this last lady had over Mrs. Rowe drew her, by an obliging kind of violence, to spend a few months with her at some of the earl's seats in the country. Yet, even on these occasions, she never quitted her retreat without regret.

In this recess she composed the most celebrated of her works. *Friendship in Death*, 1728, and the several parts of the *Letters moral and entertaining*, in 1729 and 1731. The design of both is, by fictitious examples of the most generous benevolence and heroic virtue, to allure the reader to the practice of every thing that ennobles human nature, and benefits the world; and by just and lively images of the sharp remorse and real misery that attend the false and unworthy satisfactions of vice, to warn the young and unthinking from being seduced by the name of pleasure, to inevitable ruin. Mr. Cowley observed of her, that she possessed so much strength and firmness of mind, and such a perfect natural goodness, as could not be perverted by the largeness of her wit, and was proof against the art of poetry itself. These *Letters*, which are more popular than any of her other works (excepting perhaps a few of her *Hymns*, which certainly have no superior in that species of composition

position in our language) are in very extensive circulation.

In 1736, the importunity of some of Mrs. Rowe's acquaintance, who had seen the *History of Joseph*, in manuscript, prevailed on her (though not without real reluctance) to suffer it to be made public. She wrote this piece in her younger years, and when first printed, had carried it no farther than the marriage of the hero; but, at the request of her friends, particularly of the Duchess of Somerset, that the relation might include Joseph's discovery of himself to his brethren, she added two other books; the composing of which, I am informed, was no more than the labour of three or four days. This additional part, which was her last work, was published but a few weeks before her death.

This grand event, to prepare for which she had made so much the business of her life, befel her, according to her wish, in her beloved recess. She was favoured with an uncommon strength of constitution, and had passed a long series of years with scarce any indisposition severe enough to confine her to her bed. But about half a year before her decease, she was attacked by a distemper, which seemed, to herself as well as others, attended with danger: though this disorder, as she expressed herself to one of her most intimate friends, found her mind not quite so serene, and prepared to meet death, as usual; yet, by devout contemplations on the atonement and mediation of Our Blessed Redeemer, she had fortified herself against that fear and diffidence, from which the most exalted piety does not always secure us.

After this threatening illness, Mrs. Rowe recovered her usual good state of health; and though at the time of her decease she was pretty far advanced in age, yet her exact temperance, and the calmness of her mind, undis-

undisturbed with uneasy cares and passions, encouraged her friends to flatter themselves with a much longer enjoyment of her society, than it pleased heaven to allow them. On the day in which she was seized with that distemper, which in a few hours proved mortal, she seemed, to those about her, to be in perfect health and vigour. In the evening, about 8 o'clock, she conversed with a friend with all her wonted vivacity, and not without laughter; after which she retired to her chamber. At about ten, her servant hearing some noise in her mistress's room, went up and found her fallen off her chair on the floor, speechless, and in the agonies of death. She had the immediate assistance of a physician and surgeon, but all the means used were without success; and, after having given one groan, she expired, 1736-7, in the sixty-third year of her age: her disease was judged to be an apoplexy. A pious book was found lying open by her, and also some loose papers, with unconnected sentences, or prayers.

Though, from the gaiety and cheerfulness of her temper, she seemed peculiarly fitted to enjoy life, and all its innocent satisfactions; yet, when her acquaintances expressed to her the joy they felt on seeing her look so well, and possessed of so much health as promised many years to come, she was wont to reply, "that it was the same as telling a slave his fetters were like to be lasting; or complimenting him on the strength of the walls of his dungeon."

She was buried, according to her own request, under the same stone with her father, in the meeting-place at Frome. Her death was lamented with very uncommon and remarkable sorrow, by all who had heard of her virtue and merit, but particularly those of the town where she had so long resided, and her intimate acquaintance.

Above all, the news of her death touched the poor and distressed with inexpressible affliction ; and at her doors, and over her grave, they bewailed the loss of their benefactress, poured blessings on her memory, and recounted to each other the gentle and condescending manner with which she had heard their requests, and the numerous instances in which they had experienced her unexampled goodness and bounty.

In her cabinet were found letters to several of her friends, filled with the kindest professions of unalterable friendship, and the tenderest concern for their immortal welfare. The following sentiments I must transcribe : “ It would not be worth the while to cherish the impressions of a virtuous friendship, if the generous engagement was to be dissolved with mortal life ; such a thought would give the grave a deeper gloom, and add horrors to the fatal darkness.

“ But I confess, I have brighter expectations, and am fully persuaded, those noble attachments that are founded on real merit are of an immortal date. That benignity, that divine charity, which just warms the soul in these cold regions, will shine with new lustre, and burn with an eternal ardour in the happy seats of peace and love.

“ My present experience confirms me in this truth ; the powers of nature are drooping, the vital spark grows languid and faint ; while my affection for my surviving friends was never more warm, my concern for their happiness was never more ardent and sincere.”

Her acquaintance with the great had taught her all the accomplishments of good breeding, and complaisance of behaviour ; and without formality or affectation she practised, in a distant solitude, all the address
and

and politeness of a court; but she learned no more than the real elegancies of grandeur. She was very remote from extravagance in habit. The labours of the toilette consumed very little of her time: she justly despised the art of dress and ornament, and endeavoured to infuse the same contempt of them into all her acquaintance; yet without falling into the other extreme of indecent negligence.

She had the happiest command over her passions; and maintained a constant calmness of temper, and sweetness of disposition, that could not be ruffled with adverse incidents, or soured by the approach of old age; scarcely ever discovering any anger, except on occasions, when some degree of indignation is not only irreproachable, but truly deserves the name of commendable and virtuous zeal. Scandal and detraction appeared to her extreme inhumanity, which no charms of wit and politeness could make tolerable. In a letter to an old friend, she says, "I can appeal to you, if you ever knew me make an envious, or an ill-natured reflection on any person on earth." If she was forced to be present at such kind of conversation, she had sometimes (when the freedom might decently be used) the courage openly to condemn it; and always the generosity to undertake the defence of the absent, when unjustly accused, and to extenuate even their real faults and errors. She had few equals in conversation.

The native grandeur of her soul, preserved it from a fondness for any kind of luxury, judging it much beneath the dignity of a being possessed of reason, and born for immortality. Play, she believed, at best was but an art of losing time, and forgetting to think, and therefore never learned any game, however po-

lite or fashionable. She mixed in no parties of pleasure, and extremely despised the trivial and uninteresting conversation of formal visits, which she avoided as much as possible.

The love of money she thought the most sordid and ignoble of passions, and was so far from that rigour in exacting her due, which approaches to inhumanity, that her neglect of her interest might rather be censured as excessive: she let her estates beneath their intrinsic value, and was so gentle to her tenants, that she would not so much as suffer them to be threatened with the seizure of their goods, on the neglect of payment of their rents. She trembled at the idea of injustice, and the delicacy of her conscience, with regard to this sin, was so great, that she hardly thought she could keep far enough from it. She devoted the whole of her income, but what was barely sufficient for the necessities of life, to the relief of the indigent and distressed; and it is astonishing, how the moderate estate she was possessed of could supply such various and extensive benefactions as she was in the habit of bestowing. The first time she accepted of a gratification from the bookseller for any of her works, she bestowed the whole sum on a family in distress. And once, when she had not by her a sum of money sufficient to supply the like necessities of another family, she readily sold a piece of plate for that purpose. She was accustomed, on going abroad, to furnish herself with pieces of money of different value, that she might relieve any objects of compassion who should fall in her way, according to their several degrees of indigence. She contributed to some designs that had the appearance of charity, though she could not approve of them

in every respect; for she said, "it was fit, sometimes, to give for the credit of religion, when other inducements were wanting, that the professors of christianity might not be charged with covetousness,"—a vice which she abhorred so much, that scarce any grosser kind of immorality could more effectually exclude from her friendship. Besides the sums of money she gave away, and the distribution of practical books on religious subjects, she employed her own hands in labours of charity to clothe the necessitous. This she did, not only for the natives of the Lower Palatinate, when they were driven from their country by the rage of war, but it was her frequent employment to make garments of almost every kind, and bestow them on those who wanted them. She discovered a strong sense of humanity, and often shewed her exquisite concern for the unhappy, by weeping over their misfortunes. These were the generous tears of virtue, and not from any weakness, for she was rarely observed to weep at afflictions that befel herself. She used to visit the sick and wretched, to inquire into and supply their wants; and caused children to be taught to read and work, furnishing them with clothing and good books. This she did not only at Frome, but in a neighbouring village, where part of her estate lay. And when she met with children of promising countenances, who were perfectly unknown to her, if, upon inquiry, it appeared, that through the poverty of their parents they were not put to school, she added them to the number of those taught at her own expence. She instructed them herself in the plain and necessary principles and duties of religion; and the grief she felt when any of them did not answer the hopes she had entertained

was equal to the great satisfaction she received when it appeared that her care and bounty had been well placed. Her charities were not confined to those of her own opinions; all partook of her bounty. Nor was her beneficence confined to the poor, since she used to say, "It was one of the greatest benefits that could be done to mankind, to free them from the cares and anxieties that attend a narrow fortune;" in pursuance of these generous sentiments, she has been often known to make large presents to persons, who were not oppressed with the last extremes of indigence.

Mrs. Rowe declined all honours that might have been paid her, on account of her works, by not prefixing her name to any of them, except a few poems in the earlier part of her life. The same modest disposition of mind appears in the orders that she left in writing to her servant, in which, after having desired that her funeral might be by night, and attended only by a small number of friends, she adds, "Charge Mr. Bowden," (the gentleman who preached the funeral sermon) "not to say one word of me in the sermon. I would lie in my father's grave, and have no stone nor inscription over my vile dust, which I gladly leave to oblivion and corruption, till it rise to a glorious immortality."

Filial piety was a remarkable part of her character. She loved her father as she ought, and repaid his uncommon care and tenderness by the just returns of duty and affection. She has been heard to say, "that she would rather die than displease him;" and the anguish she felt at seeing him in pain, in his last sickness, was so great, that it occasioned some kind of convulsion; a disorder from which she was wholly free in every other part of her life.

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When she entered into the marriage state, the highest esteem and most tender affection appeared in all her conduct to Mr. Rowe; and by the most gentle and obliging manner, and the exercise of every social and good-natured virtue, she confirmed the empire she had gained over his heart. She complied with his inclinations, in several instances to which she was naturally averse, and made it her study to soften the anxieties, and heighten all the satisfactions of his life.

Her capacity for superior things did not tempt her to neglect the less honourable cares which the laws of propriety impose on the wife. Mr. Rowe had some mixture of natural warmth in his temper, which he could not always command; but she always remained mistress of herself, and by the gentlest language and endearments, studied to restore his mind to that calmness which reason approves. And equally endeavoured by persuasion, far remote from any airs of superiority, to lead him on to that perfection of virtue, to which she aspired with the truest christian zeal. During his long illness, she scarce ever stirred from him a minute, and alleviated his affliction by performing with tenderness and assiduity, all the offices of compassion suited to that melancholy season.

She was a gentle and kind mistress; treated her servants with great condescension and goodness, and almost with the affability of a friend and equal. A warm and generous friend, just, if not partial, to the merit, and most gentle and candid to the errors, of those she loved. She was always forward to do them good offices, but in a distinguished manner she studied, with infinite art and zeal, to insinuate the love of virtue into all her acquaintance, and to promote their most important interest, by inciting them to the practice

of every thing that would recommend them to the higher degrees of the divine favour. This she proposed as the best end of friendship.

Mrs. Rowe was not entirely free from the attacks of malice, yet one could scarce learn from her discourse that she had an enemy; for she was not wont to complain of any injuries done to herself: so that it was apparent, such things made light impression on her mind; or that she endeavoured to efface them with the happiest success.

Strict in every christian and moral duty, she possessed the serenity and cheerfulness of temper, which seem naturally to flow from conscious viriue, and the hope of the divine favour. Her whole life appear not only a constant calm, but a perpetual sunshine, and every hour of it sparkled with good humour and inoffensive gaiety.

Amongst the number of her friends, who were remarkable for their rank, virtues or talents, Dr. Watts ought to have been mentioned.

Besides the works mentioned, are *Miscellaneous Works*, two volumes in 8vo, which are valuable books, and especially the second volume, that contains her letters to the duchess of Somerset. They are lively and rational, and have many fine sentiments. *Devout Exercises of the Heart*, published by her friend Dr. Watts, and dedicated by him to the countess of Hertford.

Life, prefixed to her Poems, &c.

ROXALANA (*a Russian Captive, and Slave to Solyman the Magnificent, Emperor of the Turks,*)

SUPLANTED a beautiful Circassian in the heart of her master, who had borne him Mustapha, the destined heir of his empire, and kept possession of it many years
without

without a rival, after which, Roxalana had also several children. All the pleasure, however, she derived from her power, was embittered by the idea that on her son-in-law's accession to the throne, from the barbarous policy of the East, her children must be put to death. She began therefore to hate him, and to seek his ruin. With the grand vizier, to whom she had prevailed on the sultan to give her daughter, she planned her own exaltation, and the downfall of the unhappy prince. She pretended great zeal for the Mahometan religion, to which Solyman was much attached, and proposed to found a mosque, when the mufti, whom she consulted, and who had been previously instructed, told her that as a slave she could derive no benefit from that holy deed. Upon this she seemed sunk in sorrow, and Solyman, who was absent with the army, on being informed of her dejection, instantly hastened to remove it, by declaring, under his own hand, she was a free woman. Roxalana on this reassumed all her gaiety of spirit, and built her mosque. But when Solyman returned, she refused to live with him as a concubine any longer, alledging that what was an honour to a slave was a disgrace to a free woman. The passionate monarch consulted the mufti, who suggested the idea of espousing her. Solyman accordingly solemnly married her, thereby disregarding the customs of the monarchs of his race. Now was the time to alienate the heart of the sultan from his son, whose praises she so often repeated, that Solyman began to hear them with uneasiness, and suspicion. He placed spies about him, and consented to another innovation, the appearance of Roxalana's children at court. The crafty visier also contrived to have the different accounts sent to court full of the praises of Mustapha, till Solyman himself set out for the distant army, and had his son put to death

in his own presence. The son of this unfortunate prince was likewise privately dispatched, and no rival left to dispute the Ottoman throne with the sons of Roxalana.

Robertson's Charles V.

ROZE'E (MADAME), *an extraordinary Paintress; born at Leyden, in 1632.*

It is said, that she neither used oil nor water colours, but only worked on the rough side of the pannel with a preparation of silk floss, disposed in different boxes, according to the different degrees of light and dark tints, out of which she applied whatever colour was requisite for her work, and blended, softened, and united the tints with such art and judgment, that she imitated the warmth of flesh as well as could be done with oil. The pictures were exquisitely beautiful, and curious, some being historical subjects, others landscapes, and some portraits. She died 1682.

RUSSEL (LADY ELIZABETH), *third Daughter of Sir Anthony Cooke, 1529,*

Was equally happy with her two sisters in having the advantages of a learned and polite education, and in the progress she made in the languages.

She was married first to Sir Thomas Hobby, who was sent by queen Elizabeth, ambassador into France, where she accompanied him. He dying at Paris 1566, she brought home his corpse, which she deposited in the church of Bisham, in Berkshire, together with the remains of Sir Philip, his brother, in the same tomb. which she adorned with large inscriptions in Latin and English verse of her own composing. She had by Sir Thomas

Thomas four children, Edward, Elizabeth, Anne, and Thomas Posthumus, who, according to the account she gives of him to her brother, lord treasurer Burleigh, by his excessive extravagance and want of duty gave her much uneasiness. From this letter it appears, she was a lady of great spirit and sense, as well as an excellent economist.

Some years after the death of Sir Thomas, she married Lord John Russel, son and heir to the second earl of Bedford of that name; who, dying before his father in the year 1584, was buried in the abbey church at Westminster, where is a very noble monument erected to his memory, embellished with inscriptions in Greek, Latin and English, drawn up by his lady. She had by him one son, who died young; and two daughters, Anne and Elizabeth.

She translated from the French into English, a tract intituled, *A Way of Reconciliation of a good and learned Man, touching the true Nature and Substance of the Body and Blood of Christ in the Sacrament*, printed 1605; and dedicated to her daughter, Anne Herbert, wife to the Lord H. Herbert.

Where or when this worthy lady died we do not find. But by a letter she wrote to her nephew Cecil, without date, it seems to have been about the year 1597; she complains much of her bad health, and the infirmities of old age, being apprehensive of a sudden death; and concludes, “your lordship’s owld awnt of compleat 68 years, that prays for your lordship’s long life,

ELIZABETH RUSSEL, Dowager.”

Poetical inscriptions and epitaphs were a favourite kind of composition with Lady Russel. She wrote epitaphs for

for her son, daughter, brother, sister, and a venerable old friend, in the Greek, Latin, and English tongues.

Female Worthies.

RUSSEL (LADY RACHAEL), *Daughter of the Earl of Southampton, and Wife, first, of Lord Vaughan, secondly, of Lord William, Son of the Earl of Bedford, who was beheaded 1683; born 1636, died 1723.*

FAMOUS for her equanimity, her fortitude, spirit, and sensibility. Her Letters have been published from the originals, by Mr. T. Selwood.

Female Worthies.

RUISCH (RACHAEL),

WAS born at Amsterdam, and was one of those women who have honoured her country by her manners and talents. Young, without master, and without assistance, her taste for drawing led her to copy whatever struck her in paintings or engravings. At length she was put under the tuition of Wm. Van Aelst, (in the *European Museum*, of 1801, there were two very beautiful specimens of her talents, which were said to have been given by her in part of the marriage portion of her daughter) she was called the pupil of Van Huysum, who was celebrated for his fruits and flowers; in which kind of painting she obtained the highest reputation. The academy of the Hague received her as one of its members, as they also did Van Pool, her husband, who was a good painter. The Elector Palatine sent her a diploma, constituting her painter to the court of Dusseldorf. The Prince sent her a letter, accompanied with a mag-

magnificent present, and stood godfather to her child. She painted as well at eighty as at thirty, and died aged eighty-six, in 1750.

Madame Genlis.

RYVES (ELIZABETH),

AN ingenious lady, born in Ireland of a respectable, but reduced family, and the small fortune she had was swallowed up in a law suit. In this exigence she had recourse to her pen for subsistence, and compiled some part of the Annual Register.

She also wrote a novel, intituled *The Hermit of Snowdon*, and translated several pieces from the French. She died in 1797.

S.

SABUCO (DONNA OLIVA DE NANTIS), *born at Alcares, in Spain, in the time of Philip II.*

“HAD a most sublime and extensive genius, which shines forth in her writings on physical, moral, and political subjects. But what she is most to be praised for is her new physiological and medical system; in which, contrary to all the ancients, she maintains that it is not the blood which nourishes our bodies, but that white juice, which issuing from the brain, pervades all the nerves; and to distempers in this vital lymph she attributes

butes most diseases and complaints. This system, which was neglected in Spain, raised the admiration, and inflamed the curiosity of England, so that others assumed the honour of it, though due to a Spanish lady. She was prior to the celebrated Descartes, in the opinion that the rational soul resided in the brain, but extended it to the whole substance, and did not like him confine it to the pineal gland. Donna Oliva was so confident of her ability to maintain her opinions, that, in the dedication of one of her works to the president of Castile, she requested that an assembly of the most learned naturalists and physicians might be convened; offering to shew, beyond denial, that the natural philosophy and physic then taught in the schools, were wide of the mark."

Father Feejoo, &c.

SACHON (GABRIELLE), *a French Lady of an ancient family, born at Rheims, 1631,*

HAVING indiscreetly become a nun in that city, some years after her profession, protested against her vows, and obtained absolution from them at the court of Rome. Afterwards she went to live with her mother, where she addicted herself to the study of the belles lettres; she composed many works, and the only recreation she allowed herself was that of instructing children in the intervals of her study.

F. C.

SADE (LAURA), *a Lady of Avignon, Wife of Hugues de Sade; died of the Plague in that City 1348,*

CELEBRATED for the enthusiastic admiration, and constant love of Petrarch, who, after he became acquainted

quainted with her, left off his irregularities of conduct; and, though the reserve and delicacy of Laura would never permit him to hope for a return, she treated him with friendship, and appears not to have been in reality, insensible to his love, which rendered her renowned throughout Europe.

SAINT-AUBIN (MADAME DE),

AUTHOR of some romances, written in an easy, natural stile. Her first work was *Le Danger des Liaisons, ou Memoirs de la Baronne de Blemon*. Her maiden name was d'Oville, she married M. de Saint-Aubin, a gentleman of good family in Burgundy, and after his death the baron d'Andlau. She wrote also memoirs, in the form of letters between two young persons of quality.

SAINT CHAMONT (MADAME LA MARQUISE DE), *was the Daughter of an Italian Architect, and a Parisian Lady of Fashion.*

HER maiden name was Margaretta, but before the age of fourteen she was married to the Marquis de Saint Chamont, who died in the year 1750, at which time, she was obliged to prove her marriage by a process which lasted three years. The merits of which were, during the whole time, not only the subject of conversation in Paris, but throughout all Europe; but at last she triumphed over an host of enemies and false witnesses, who strove to vilify and defame her.

She commenced author, it is said, at the particular request of the marquis her husband; and first wrote an
elegy

elegy, on the Duke of Sully, which stamped her fame as a writer. In all her works we meet with a pure diction, natural reflections, noble sentiments, pathetic, ingenious and void of all affectation.

She wrote many pieces for the theatre, which were well received; and many works which have contended for the prizes of the French academy. An eulogium on Descartes has been highly admired. She likewise wrote *Les Amans sans le savoir*, which is much esteemed.

Mrs. Thicknesse.

SALIEZ, a French Lady, who married a Magistrate of Alby, who dying left her a young Widow.

BEING a woman of excellent understanding, and having a strong desire to improve and cultivate it, she in 1704 formed a society for the sake of an agreeable and refined intercourse; an establishment which made her soon so universally known and admired, that the academy of Padua sent her letters patent, appointing her one of their members. In her letter of thanks to that learned body, she discovers an uncommon degree of solicitude for the honour of her own sex. She laments the want of that elegance of stile in her compositions, which some of her contemporaries, and other female writers have possessed—but attributes it to a provincial education, and being deprived of the conversation of the beaux esprits of the court and capital, where alone, she says, the flowers of language and elegant turns of expression are to be gathered.

Madame de Sàliez also formed a project of establishing a new sect of female philosophers; speaking of which, in a letter to the Marchioness de Montpellier, she says, “the end of this sect, is to live

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commodiously, and to determine all reasonable women to shake off that yoke of constraint, which error, or custom, have established in the world. But it will be necessary first to consider of some rules, and such as we ought strictly to adhere to. We must reject those who love to speak of their *birth, connections, or finery*, or in any sort to commend themselves. We must exclude all prudes and coquettes ; I think likewise, Madam, it will be right, to banish love from such a society, and substitute in its place, friendship, cordiality, politeness, good humour, and respect towards each other ; such respect, I mean, as arises from esteem, not from any consideration of superior birth, fortune, &c. for every one must have the liberty of speaking their own sentiments, without reserve, and offer their opinion, without the least fear of giving offence to others who may differ from them.”

The above extract will sufficiently shew the turn of mind this celebrated lady possessed ; for though she wrote on a great variety of subjects, both in prose and verse, the honour of her sex, and their equality with men, seemed to be the grand hinge on which most of her writings turned. She lived to a great age, highly esteemed and honoured, and died at Alby, the place of her nativity, in 1730.

Mrs. Thicknesse.

SAPHIA, *a Moorish Spaniard of Seville,*

DISTINGUISHED for her oratorical and poetical powers, was so much skilled in the art of penmanship that she was at the same time the admiration and example to writers. She died, aged thirty years, at the expiration of the 417th year of the Hegira. An epigram

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of hers on the art of good writing, is preserved in the library of the Escorial.

Bibliothecæ Arabico-Hispanæ Escurialiensis.

SAPPHO.

THIS excellent poetess, who enjoyed the title of the tenth muse, was a native of Mitylene, the capital of the Molian cities in the Island of Lesbos. She flourished, about 500 years before our Saviour, and was cotemporary with Pittacus, tyrant of Mitylene and one of the seven Grecian Sages, and with the two famous poets Stesichorus and Alcæus. The last of these is said to have been her suitor; and a rebuke which she gave him is still extant in Aristotle. He informs us that Alcæus one day accosting Sappho, told her he had something to say to her, but was afraid to utter it: "was it any thing good," answered she, "you would not be ashamed to disclose it."

Diphilius the comic poet, and Hermesianax the Colophonian, assure us that Anacreon of Teos was one of her lovers; but this is supposed too repugnant to chronology to be admitted, as Sappho was probably dead before Anacreon was born. What perhaps was the origin of this, is the latter having mentioned her name in one of his odes.

We have no records by which we can judge of her quality, whether she was of noble or vulgar extraction; for though Strabo informs us, that her brother Charaxus traded in wines from Lesbos to Egypt, yet we can conclude nothing from this anecdote, since people of the highest rank among the ancients employed themselves in traffic, and frequently used it as an expedient to travel. She had two other elder

der brothers, Larychus she highly extolled in her verses for virtue and munificence, but against Charaxus she bitterly inveighed for the extravagant love he bore to Rhodope.

She married one Cercolas, a man of great wealth and power in the island of Andros, by whom she had a daughter named Cleis. Becoming a widow very young, she renounced all thoughts of a second marriage; but imputations with which her memory is loaded, should not be too easily credited; since perhaps they rest but on the faith of Ovid. Had not chronology contradicted her amour with Anacreon, that would still have been considered as a fact; and the cause of truth is so holy, that we ought not more implicitly to believe ill reports of the dead than of the living; or at least, if there is a doubt, candour ought to incline one to give it its full force.

She fell desperately in love with Phaon, a young man of Lesbos, who is said to have been a kind of ferryman, and thence fabled to have carried Venus over the stream in his boat, and to have received from her, as a reward, the favour of becoming the most beautiful man in the world. She took a voyage into Sicily in pursuit of him, he having withdrawn thither on purpose to avoid her. It was on this occasion, and on this island, she composed her Hymn to Venus, which is extant, and considered as a pattern of perfection; but her prayer was ineffectual, and she was so far transported with her passion, that she resolved to get rid of it at any rate.

There was a promontory in Acarnania, called Leucate, on the top of which was a little temple dedicated to Apollo. In this temple it was usual for despairing lovers to make their vows in secret, and af-

terwards to fling themselves from the top of the precipice into the sea. For it was an established opinion, that all those who were taken up alive, would immediately be cured of their former passion. Sappho tried the experiment, but perished in the attempt. Some write that she was the in ventress of this custom; but Strabo tells us, that those who understood antiquity better, have reported, that one Cephalus first made the desperate descent from that fatal precipice, called *the Lovers Leap*.

The Romans erected a most noble statue of porphyry to her memory; and the Mitylenians, to express their sense of her worth, and the glory they received from her being born amongst them, paid her sovereign honours after her death, and coined money with her head as the impress.

The best idea we can have of her person, is from her own description of it in Ovid, who is supposed to have borrowed the most beautiful thoughts in this epistle, confessedly far superior to his others, from works of her's no longer extant.

To me what nature has in charms denied,
Is well by wit's more lasting charms supplied.
Though short my stature, yet my name extends
To heaven itself, and earth's remotest ends.
Brown as I am, an Ethiopian dame,
Inspired young Perseus with a generous flame.
&c. &c.

To give the English reader a true notion what opinion the ancients entertained of her works would be to collect volumes in her praise.

On the revival of learning, men of the most refined taste accounted the loss of her writings inestimable, and collected the relics with the utmost assiduity;

siduity: though Mr. Addison (in the *Spectator*, No. 223), judiciously observes, “ I do not know, by the character that is given of her works, whether it is not for the benefit of mankind that they are lost. They were filled with such bewitching tenderness and rapture, that it might have been dangerous to have given them the reading.”

Vossius says that none of the Greek poets excelled Sappho in sweetness of versification, that she made Archilochus the model of her style, but at the same time took great care to soften and temper the severity of his expression. What remains to us of Sappho carries in it something so sweet, luxuriant, and charming, even in the sound of the words, that Catullus himself, who has attempted an imitation of them in Latin, falls infinitely short; and so have all the other poets, who have delivered their own ideas upon this subject.

She was the inventress of that kind of verse which from her name, is called the Sapphic. She wrote nine books of odes, besides elegies, epigrams, iambics, monodies, and other pieces; of which we have nothing remaining entire, but an hymn to Venus, an ode preserved by Longinus, which, however, the learned acknowledge to be imperfect, two epigrams, and some other little fragments; in one of which, like other great people, she promised herself immortality. I shall conclude my account of this celebrated lady in the words of Mr. Addison :

“ Among the mutilated poets of antiquity, there is none whose fragments are so beautiful as those of Sappho. They give us a taste of her way of writing, which is perfectly conformable with the extraordinary character we find of her in the remarks of

those great critics who were conversant with her works when they were entire. One may see, by what is left of them, that she followed nature in all her thoughts, without descending to those little points, conceits, and turns of wit with which many of our modern lyrics are so miserably infected. Her soul seems to have been made up of love and poetry: she felt the passion in all its warmth, and described it in all its symptoms. She is called by ancient authors the tenth muse; and by Plutarch is compared to Cacus, the son of Vulcan, who breathed nothing but flame."

Dr. Anderson's *Life of Sappho*, and *Biographia Classica*.

SARROCHIA (MARGARETTA), *a Neapolitan Lady of the 17th Century*,

WHO wrote an heroic poem on the life of Scanderbeg, King of Albania. Her house was the resort of men of letters, and she was flattered very much in her time.

F. C.

SCALA (ALESSANDRIA), *a Florentine Lady*.

AMONG the circumstances favourable to the promotion of letters in the fifteenth century, was the partiality shewn to these studies, and the proficiency made in them, by women, illustrious by their birth, or eminent for their personal accomplishments. Among these, Alessandria, the daughter of Bartolomeo Scala, was peculiarly distinguished. The extraordinary beauty of her person was surpassed by the endowments of her mind. At an early age she was a proficient.

proficient, not only in the Latin, but in the Greek tongue, which she had studied under Joannes Lasca and Demetrius Chalcondyles. Such an union of excellence attracted the attention, and is supposed to have engaged the affections of Politian, who wrote her many complimentary verses, which she answered; but gave her hand to the Greek Marullus, who enjoyed at Florence the favour of Lorenzo de Medici, and in the elegance of his Latin compositions emulated the Italians themselves. Hence probably arose the dissensions between Marullus and Politian, the monuments of which yet remain in their writings. She was happy in her marriage, and died 1506.

Roscoe's Life of Lorenzo de Medici.

SCALIGER (LUCIA), *born of respectable Parents in the City of Venice, 1637,*

LEARNED the Latin, Spanish, and French languages, writing letters in each, full of such sentiments as would instruct even the best letter writers. In playing and singing she made great progress: in painting she had Alexander Varotari for a master, who followed the colouring of Titian, and at the same time taught Bartholomew Scaliger, her uncle. She refused the invitations of some Italian and foreign princesses, who sought her as their maid of honour: she married in her own country, and amongst her other children, had Maria Theodora, who painted with skill. She lived to the end of 1700. She was a relation of the famous Scaliger, and of many others remarkable for their learning and genius.

Abec. Pitt.

SCHUR-

SCHURMAN (ANNA MARIA), *was born at Cologne 1607, of Parents sprung from noble Protestant Families.*

FROM her infancy she discovered an uncommon dexterity of hand; for at six years of age, she cut with her scissars all sorts of figures upon paper, without any pattern or model. At eight she learned in a few days to design flowers in a very agreeable manner; and two years after, took no more than three hours in learning to embroider. She was afterwards instructed in music, painting, sculpture, and engraving; and succeeded to admiration in all these arts. Her hand writing in all languages was inimitable; and some curious persons have preserved specimens of it in their cabinets. Mr. Joby, in his journey to Munster, relates, that he had a view of the beauty of her writing in French, Greek, Hebrew, Syriac, and Arabic; and was an eye witness of her skill in drawing in miniature, and making portraits upon glass with the point of a diamond. She painted her own picture; and made artificial pearls so nearly resembling natural ones, that they could not be distinguished, except by pricking them with a needle.

The powers of her understanding were equally capacious; for at eleven years of age, when her brothers were examined in their Latin exercises, she frequently whispered them what to answer, though she had only heard them say their lessons *en passant*; which her father observing, and perceiving she had a genius for literature, determined to cultivate
those

those talents he saw she was possessed of, and accordingly assisted her in gaining that noble stock of learning, for which she was afterwards so eminent. The Latin, Greek, and Hebrew languages were so familiar to her, that she not only wrote, but spoke them fluently, to the surprize of the most learned men. She made a great progress also in the oriental languages, which have an affinity with the Hebrew, as the Syriac, Chaldee, Arabic, and Ethiopic; understood the living languages perfectly well, and could converse readily in French, English, and Italian. She was likewise competently versed in geography, astronomy, philosophy, and the sciences; but as her mind was naturally of a religious cast, these learned amusements gave her but little satisfaction; and at length she applied herself to divinity, and the study of the holy scriptures.

While she was an infant, her father had settled at Utrecht, but afterwards, for the more convenient education of his children, removed to Franeker, where he died 1623. Upon which his widow returned to Utrecht, where Anna Maria continued her studies very intensely; which undoubtedly kept her from marrying, as she might advantageously have done with Mr. Cots, pensionary of Holland, and a celebrated poet, who wrote verses in her praise, when she was no more than fourteen years of age.

Her modesty, which was as remarkable as her knowledge, would have kept her merit and learning in obscurity, if Rivetus, Spanheim, and Vossius, had not produced her, contrary to her own inclination, upon the stage of the world. To these three divines we may add Salmasius, Beverovicus, and Hæygens, who

who maintained a literary correspondence with her, and by shewing her letters, spread her fame into foreign countries. This procured her letters from eminent men, and her name became so famous, that persons of the first distinction, even princesses, paid her visits; and cardinal Richelieu shewed her marks of his esteem.

About the year 1650, she made a visible alteration in her religious system. She no longer went to public worship, but performed her devotions in private; which occasioned a report that she was inclined to popery; but the truth was, she had attached herself to Labadie, the famous Quietist, and embracing his principles and practices, accompanied him wherever he went. She lived some time with him at Altena, in Holstein, where she attended him at his death in 1674. She afterwards retired to Wiewart, in Friseland, where Mr. William Penn, the Quaker, visited her in 1677; and died at this place, 1678. She took for her device these words of St. Ignatius, *Amor meus crucifixus est*, my love is crucified.

Her works are, “*De Vitæ Humanæ Terminò.*” *Ultraject.* 1639. “*Dissertatio de Ingenii Muliebris ad Doctrinam;* and *Meliores Literas aptitudine.*” *Lugd. Bat.* 1641. These two pieces, with letters in French, Latin, Greek, and Hebrew, to her learned correspondents, were printed at Leyden, 1648, in 12mo. under the title of “*A. M. a Schurman Opuscula, Hebræa, Græca, Latina, Gallica; Prosaica et Metrica.*” Enlarged in the edition of Utrecht, 1652. She wrote afterwards, “*Eukleria, seu Melioris Partis Electio.*” This is a defence of her attachment to Labadie, and
was

was printed at Altena in 1673, when she was with him.

Female Worthies.

SCUDERY (MADELINE DE), *of a noble and warlike Family; born at Havre de Grace, 1607, distinguished for her Wit and Talents; died 1702, aged 94.*

SHE was looked upon as a prodigy from her childhood; but her person was plain and deformed, which made her a subject of ridicule to the frivolous, though she was amiable, wise, and ingenious. She went very early to Paris, where by her assiduous application to the belles lettres, she made herself amends for the want of education, which the narrowness of her father's circumstances had not permitted. Her fine accomplishments gained her admittance into all assemblies of the wits, and even the learned caressed and were fond of her company; necessity first set her upon writing; and as the taste of that age was for romances, she turned her pen that way; but made a commendable alteration in that kind of writing, by giving more modesty to the heroines, and more tenderness to the heroes. Her books were eagerly bought up, and she was called the Sappho of the age.

The celebrated academy of the Ricovrati, at Padua, complimented her with a place in their society, and she succeeded the learned Helena Cornaro. Several great personages gave her marks of their esteem, by presents and other honours. The celebrated Boileau, who had writ-

written a satire on romances, forbore to make it public, out of respect to Mademoiselle Scudery. The prince of Paderborn, bishop of Munster, made her a present of his works, together with a medal. Christina, Queen of Sweden, corresponded with her, settled a pension on her, and sent her her picture. Cardinal Mazarine left her an annuity by his will; and Lewis XIV. in 1683, at the solicitation of Madame de Maintenon, settled also a pension on her, which was always punctually paid. Neither did he stop there; but appointed a special audience to receive her acknowledgments, and paid her many fine compliments.

An odd accident befel this lady on a journey with her brother. At the inn they were to lodge at, they after supper fell into discourse on the romance of Cyrus, which they were then writing, and particularly how Prince Mazard should be disposed of. After a pretty warm debate, it was agreed he should be assassinated. Some merchants in the next room, overhearing their discourse, and concluding that these strangers were contriving the death of some prince, whom they concealed under that name, went and gave information to the governor; upon which they were imprisoned; and it was not without a great deal of expence and difficulty that they recovered their liberty.

She held a correspondence with all the learned, and her house at Paris was a kind of little court, where numbers used constantly to assemble.

Her works were very numerous. M. Costar says, she composed eighty volumes out of her own head. As to her real merits, Voltaire says, “ she is now better known by some agreeable verses which she left, than by the enormous romances of Clelia and of Cyrus.”

It

It was a pity that her talents should have been thrown away on that species of writing. Her novels are all founded on facts, relative to people in the French court. The French stile was not so good then as it was afterwards, and her writings have much tedious minutia of description, but her fancy was brilliant and her sentiments pure and noble. Besides *l' Illustre Bassa*, *Cyrus*, *Clelia*, &c. she published two volumes of the speeches of illustrious women. *Celinte*, *Mathilde*, and *Le Promenade de Versailles*, were shorter than her first romances, and more near the modern novel. Her discourse on glory, in 1671, won the first prize of eloquence in the French academy. She preserved her powers, her wit and vivacity, to the last, and bore with patience violent pains from a rheumatic affection in her knees. She died as she had lived, with modest hope and piety.

F. C. &c.

SEGUIER (ANNE DE), *a French Poetess, Wife of Duprat, Baron de Thiern,*

By whom she had two daughters, educated at the court of Henry III. and famous for their learning and knowledge, as well as for that virtue which they inherited from their mother.

F. C.

SEMIRAMIS, *the most extraordinary Woman of Antiquity,*

Was the wife of an officer in the army of Ninus, king of Assyria,

Assyria, who being attracted by her beauty and art, married her after the death of her husband; an action of which according to some authors, he had soon reason to repent; for she having first brought over to her interest the principal men of the state, next prevailed on the infatuated Ninus to invest her five days with the sovereign power. A decree was accordingly issued, that all the provinces should implicitly obey her during that time; which having obtained, she began the exercise of sovereignty, by putting to death the too indulgent husband who had conferred it on her, and so securing to herself the kingdom.

Other authors have denied that Ninus committed this rash, or Semiramis this execrable deed, but all agree that she succeeded him at his death, in whatever manner it happened.

Seeing herself at the head of a mighty empire, and seized with the ambition of immortalizing her memory, she proposed to do something that should far surpass all that had been done by her predecessors: in pursuance of this scheme, she built the mighty city of Babylon; which being finished in the space of one year, greatly exceeded in splendour and magnificence any thing the world had ever seen. Two millions of men are said to have been constantly employed on it, during the time it was erecting. After her death, her statue was erected in the famous temple at Hierapolis, and every day resorted to by a numerous croud of adorers, who paid her divine honours; as it was customary at that time to deify any great character, under the idea that they must have been demigods at least.

Semiramis is supposed to have lived in very different æras. Sir Isaac Newton places her about 760 years before Christ

Christ, some have said more than 2000, while d'Herbelot supposing her to have been the Persian queen Homai, whose story though imperfectly resembles her's, brings her down within 400 years.

She is said also to have been a great warrior and law-giver; but by some the whole account has been considered as a fiction, though recorded by all ancient writers.

Richardson's Dissertation on Eastern Nations.

Alexander's Hist. of Women.

SENENA, or SINA (*Wife of Gryffydd, Son of Llewellyn, Prince of North-Wales*).

THIS prince having been supplanted by his younger brother David, and treacherously confined by him, his wife, a woman of spirit and address, in concert with the Bishop of Bangor, and many of the Welch nobility, entered into a treaty with Henry III. King of England, in hopes of interesting that prince in the cause of her unfortunate husband. She conducted all the business with a tenderness and energy of spirit, which not only marked the tender wife, but the experienced politician; and notwithstanding that David was nephew to the King of England by his mother, she engaged the latter seriously in the interests of Gryffydd, who was at length delivered to the King of England by his brother. David was, however, artful enough, while he submitted to Henry, to infuse mean suspicion in the breast of that prince, who, in consequence of his suggestions, confined him in the Tower of London; where, after suffering two years imprisonment, he was killed by a fall

fall, in attempting his escape, in the presence of his wife and son, who shared his confinement, 1244. This son afterwards became joint sovereign of Wales with his brother.

Warrington's Wales.

SENTIA (AMÆSIA),

PLEADED her own cause with great force, in a large assembly of the people, before Lucius Titius, the proctor; and established her innocence, by the correctness and ability of her defence. She obtained the appellation of Androgyne, or a manly woman, as carrying a strong mind under a gentle appearance.

Valer. Max. lib. 8. C. 3.

SETURMAN (MADAME), *a Native of Cologne,*

EXCELLED in all the arts: was a painter, musician, engraver, sculptor, philosopher, geometrician, and theologian. She besides understood and spoke nine different languages.

Essay by M. Thomas.

SEVIGNE' (MARIE DE RABUTIN), *Daughter and Heiress of the Baron de Chantal; born 1626, died 1696; was not above a year old, when her Father was killed, at the Descent of the English upon the Isle of Rhé.*

SHE was left under the tuition of an amiable mother, who took particular care of her education, and to instil into her mind the sound principles of re-

of religion and virtue. She was taught very young the Latin, Spanish, and Italian languages, and soon read with facility the best authors in each. She was married, in 1644, to the Marquis de Sevigné, by whom she had a son and one daughter; he was naturally inconstant, and frequently neglected her, which as she tenderly loved him gave her great affliction, aggravated by his untimely death, for he fell in a duel, in 1651.

Madame de Sevigné had now no other care or views than the education of her children, the advancement of their fortune, and their future happiness. She was left a widow at the age of thirty-five, possessed of sufficient charms to engage her admirers; but nothing could ever induce her to think of a second marriage. Charles, Marquis de Sevigné, her son, distinguished himself by his military talents, his engaging manners and elegant address; and her daughter did not appear with less advantage, inheriting all the amiable qualities of her virtuous mother. Mlle. de Sevigné was married to Francis, Count de Grignan, Lieutenant-general of the King's forces and governor of Provence. Mde. de Sevigné flattered herself, that by marrying her daughter to a nobleman of the court, she should have been able to pass the remainder of her life near her beloved child; but Monsieur de Grignan received an order from the King to repair to Provence, where he was always obliged to command in the absence of the Duke de Vendome. This circumstance greatly chagrined Madame de Sevigné, and caused much inquietude both to her, and the Countess de Grignan, her daughter, who were obliged to make frequent and long journeys to enjoy the satisfaction of seeing each other.

This separation has, however, been the cause of much entertainment to the public; and as most of Mde. de Sevigné's letters are still extant, they will do her head and her heart honour, and give her readers both pleasure and instruction, as long as any body lives who can relish fine sentiment, wit, humour, and refined taste.

The last journey she made into Provence was in 1694, when she was present at the marriage of her grandson, the Marquis de Grignan, with Mademoiselle de Saint Amant. Soon after, Madame de Grignan had a long and dangerous illness, which so deeply affected her mother, as to disturb that repose so necessary to support old age, and she fell ill of a fever, and after lying fourteen days, died at the age of seventy, under the roof of her beloved and afflicted daughter.

She was acquainted with all the wits and learned men of her time. It is said, she decided the famous dispute between Perrault and Boileau, concerning the preference of the ancients to the moderns, thus: "the ancients are the finest, and we are the prettiest." She left a valuable collection of letters; the best edition of which is that of 1754, at Paris, in 8 vols. 12mo. "These," says Voltaire, "are filled with anecdotes, written with freedom, and in a natural and animated stile; are an excellent criticism upon studied letters of wit, and still more upon those sublime fictitious letters, which aim to imitate the epistolary stile, by a recital of false sentiments and feigned adventures to imaginary correspondents."

Mrs. Thicknesse, &c.

SEYMOUR (LADY ANNE, MARGARET, and JANE), *three Sisters, illustrious for their Learning, in the 16th Century.*

THEY wrote four hundred Latin distichs on the death of the Queen of Navarre, Margaret de Valois, which were soon after translated into Greek, French, and Italian, and printed at Paris in 1551, under the title of Tombeau de Marguerite de Valois, Reyne de Navarre. Nicholas Denisot, who had been preceptor to these three learned ladies, made a collection, containing a translation of their distichs, and some other verses, as well in honour of them, as upon the death of the Queen of Navarre, and dedicated it to Margaret de Valois, Duchess of Berri, sister of Henry II.

“ I have asked,” says M. Bayle, “ some Englishmen of great learning, and well versed in the knowledge of books and authors, who those three illustrious English ladies were, and have told them the little I knew of them; they answered me, that they knew nothing at all of them. I have received the same answer from Paris, though I consulted persons who, in that kind of learning, have scarce any equal. These three famous ladies must be inevitably sunk into oblivion, since Mr. Juncker has not said one word of them in the Catalogue of Learned Women, which he published some time ago. He sometimes quotes Pits: since, therefore, he says nothing of these ladies, it is a good proof that Pits himself says nothing of them. A friend of mine had before assured me, that neither Bale nor Pits, who have treated so amply of the writers of that

learned nation, have said any thing of these three sisters."

That Leland, Bale, nor Pits took any notice of these ladies, may be easily accounted for, when it is considered that Bale brought his work no lower than 1548; Leland was deprived of his reason, and died distracted soon after; and Pits was so extremely averse to protestantism, that he purposely omitted all the writers who were of that opinion. And as these ladies did not make their appearance in the learned world till the year 1551, it is no wonder that no notice is taken of them. However, by the authority of Mr. Fulman, in his fifteenth volume of MS. collections, in the archives of Corpus Christi college, we find that they were the daughters of Edward Seymour, Duke of Somerset, and uncle to King Edward VI. by Anne, his second wife, daughter of Sir Edward Stanhope, Knt. by whom he had six daughters, all learned; the eldest of whom was Anne, the second Margaret, and the third Jane. Anne was married, first, to John Dudley, Earl of Warwick, and afterwards to Sir Edward Unton, Knight of the Bath. It appears, by a letter under her own hand, that she was living towards the latter end of Queen Elizabeth's reign. Margaret died unmarried, though courted by the Lord Strange, 1551. Probably, the Duke's disgrace and misfortunes, which soon after befel him, prevented this match. And Jane also died single, notwithstanding her father's endeavour to have married her to King Edward. She was maid of honour to Queen Elizabeth, and in great favour. She died 1560, in the twentieth year of her age, and

and was buried in St. Edmond's chapel, in Westminster, with great solemnity.

Female Worthies.

SEYMOUR (ARABELLA), *born about 1577,*

DAUGHTER of Charles Stuart, Earl of Lenox, youngest brother of Lord Darnley, who died in the 29th year of his age, leaving this only child, of whose education a more than ordinary care was taken, and not in vain; for we are told she had a great facility in poetical compositions, and that her papers are still preserved in the Harleian and Longleat libraries.

Her affinity to the crown occasioned her many troubles, and was the cause of her almost perpetual confinement. It appears, that she was under a kind of durance in the latter end of Queen Elizabeth's reign. But be this as it may, it is certain that many were forming accusations against her, of which she greatly complained in her letters to her friends.

About this time the pope had a design to raise Arabella to the throne of England, by marrying her to cardinal Farnese, brother to the duke of Parma. King Henry IV. of France seemed to favour this project, from an apprehension that England would become too powerful, if it was united with Scotland.

Soon after the accession of King James to the crown of England, some English lords projected a scheme to make Arabella Queen of England. But this conspiracy being detected, some were capitally punished, and the rest obtained the king's pardon.

These transactions seemed to have occasioned her

confinement in her own house, and to have impaired both her fortune and health.

It is observed, in a letter from Mr. Chamberlain to Sir Ralph Winwood in 1609, that the Lady Arabella's business (whatever it was) is ended, and she restored to her former place and grace. The King gave her a cupboard of plate, better than 200*l.* for a new-year's gift; and a thousand marks to pay her debts, besides some yearly addition to her maintenance; want being thought the chiefest cause of her discontent.

Soon after this, she was privately married to Mr. William Seymour, second son to the Earl of Hertford, who was afterwards Earl of Hertford, and at length restored to the dukedom of Somerset. Their marriage being soon divulged, they were both committed prisoners to the Tower.

After an imprisonment of about a year, though under the care of different keepers, they both made their escape at the same time; at the news of which the court was terribly alarmed, and a proclamation immediately issued for their apprehension.

She went off in man's apparel, and had arrived at a French bark that waited for her and her husband, who by some mistake did not meet her; and a pinnace which was sent after them overtook and made her little vessel strike. She was then taken with her followers, and brought back to the Tower; not so sorry for her own restraint, as glad that Mr. Seymour had escaped as she hoped.

This unfortunate lady being from this time under close confinement in the Tower, spent the remaining part of her life in a melancholy retirement, which deprived her of reason. When she had been a prisoner four years, she was happily released from all
her

her sorrows by death (not without suspicion of poison) 1615, and interred in the vault with Mary, Queen of Scots, in King Henry VIIth's chapel, without any monumental inscription.

Female Worthies.

SFORZA (CATHERINE *and* ISABELLA).

THE first, paternal daughter of Galeas Sforza, Duke of Milan, a heroine, who preserved her estates from those who had assassinated her husband.

Isabella was distinguished for her literary qualifications, in the sixteenth century.

F. C.

SHEBA (*the Queen of*) as she is erroneously called, the proper name being Saba.

MANY have thought this queen was an Arabian, but Saba was a separate state, and the Sabæans a distinct people from the Ethiopians and the Arabs, till very lately. We know from history, that it was a custom amongst them, to have women for their sovereigns, in preference to men; a custom which still subsists among their descendants. Her name, the Arabs say, was *Belkis*; the Abyssinians, *Magneda*. Our Saviour calls her the *Queen of the South*, without mentioning any other name; but gives his sanction to the truth of the voyage. "The Queen of the South, (or Saba, or Azab) shall rise up in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it; for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here." No other particulars, however, are mentioned about her in scripture.

The

The gold, the myrrh, cassia, and frankincense, which she brought as presents to that great prince, were all the produce of her own country.

Whether she was a Jewess, or a Pagan, is uncertain; Sabaism was the religion of all the East. It was the constant attendant and stumbling block of the Jews; but considering the multitude of that people then trading from Jerusalem, and the long time it continued, it is not improbable that she was a Jewess. She likewise appears to have been a person of learning, and that sort of learning which was then almost peculiar to Palestine, not to Ethiopia. For we see that one of the reasons of her coming, was to examine whether Solomon was really the learned man he was said to be. She came to try him in allegories, or parables, in which Nathan had instructed him.

The annals of Abyssinia say she was a Pagan when she left Azab; but, being full of admiration at the sight of Solomon's works, she was converted to Judaism in Jerusalem, and bore him a son, whom she called Menilek, and who was their first king.

She returned home with her son, and, after keeping him some years, sent him back to his father to be instructed. Solomon did not neglect his charge, and he was anointed and crowned King of Ethiopia, in the temple of Jerusalem, and at his inauguration took the name of David. After this he returned to Azab, and brought with him a colony of Jews, among whom were many doctors of the law of Moses. All Abyssinia was thereupon converted, and the government of the church and state modelled according to what was then in use in Jerusalem. The magnificence of the latter court, and the good order there established, formed a very seductive example, and

and the Queen of Saba on beholding it, exclaimed "happy are those who behold Solomon every day, and who live under his laws!"

The Queen of Saba having made laws irrevocable to all her posterity, died, after a long reign of forty years, in 986 before Christ, placing her son Menilek upon the throne, whose posterity, the annals of Abyssinia would teach us to believe, have ever since reigned. So far we must indeed bear witness with them, that this is no new doctrine, but has been steadily and uniformly maintained from their earliest account of time; first, when Jews, and in latter days after they had embraced Christianity.

The tradition amongst a sect called the Falasha, who believe themselves descendants of those Jews who came from Jerusalem with Menilek is, that the Queen of Saba was a Jewess, and her nation Jews before the time of Solomon; that she lived at Saba or Azaba, the myrrh and frankincense country, upon the Arabian gulf. They say further, that she went to Jerusalem, under protection of Hiram, King of Tyre, whose daughter is said, in the forty-fifth Psalm, to have attended her thither; that she went not in ships, nor through Arabia, for fear of the Ishmaelites, but from Azab round Masuah and Suakem, and was escorted by the shepherds, her own subjects, to Jerusalem, and back again, making use of her own country vehicle, the camel, and that hers was a white one, of prodigious size and exquisite beauty. They agree also in every particular, with the Abyssinians, in the remaining part of the story.

Bruce's Travels.

SHE-

SHERIDAN (FRANCES), *Wife of Thomas Sheridan, M. A. born in Ireland about 1724, but descended from a good English family who had removed there.*

HER maiden name was Chamberlaine, and she was granddaughter of Sir Oliver Chamberlaine. Her first literary performance was a little pamphlet, at the time of a violent party-dispute relative to the theatre, in which Mr. Sheridan had newly embarked his fortune. So well timed a work exciting the attention of Mr. Sheridan, he by an accident discovered his fair patroness, to whom he was soon afterwards married. She was a woman of the most amiable character in every relation of life, and the most engaging manners. After lingering some years in a weak state of health, she died at Blois, 1767.

Her *Sidney Biddulph* may be ranked with the first productions of that class in our or any other language. She also wrote a little romance in one volume, called *Nourjahad*, and two comedies, *The Discovery*, and *The Dupe*.

New Biog. Dict.

SHORE (JANE), *famous for her Beauty, Wit, Misfortunes, and Penitence.*

SHE was the wife of a goldsmith, in Lombard-street; but, though naturally inclined to virtue, was seduced by the poor ambition of being distinguished by Edward IV. who was smitten with her charms, and the most fortunate and handsome young man of his time, but unprincipled and arbitrary in his conduct. But while seduced from her fidelity by this gay and profligate monarch, she still made herself respectable by her other virtues. She never sold her influence. Her good offices, the genuine dictates of her heart, waited not the solicitation

tation of presents, or the hopes of reciprocal benefit; to protect the oppressed, and relieve the indigent, were her highest pleasures. After the death of Edward, Lord Hastings engaged in an intrigue with Jane Shore; and Richard, who knew him sincerely attached to the royal family, accused the Queen, Jane Shore, and their associates, of having bewitched his arm, which was publicly known to have been withered from his birth, and pretending likewise that Hastings was their abettor, put him to death. And, in order to carry on the farce of accusations, he commanded the goods of Jane Shore to be seized, and summoned her to answer before the council for sorcery and witchcraft. But as beauty was her only witchcraft, and conversation her most dangerous spell, no proofs were produced against her, which could even be received in that ignorant age. Her persecution, however, did not end here. Richard ordered her to be tried in the spiritual court, for adultery. The charge was too notorious to be denied. She pleaded guilty, and was condemned to do public penance in a white sheet, at St. Paul's, after walking barefooted through the city. Her future life was long and wretched. She experienced, in old age and poverty, the ingratitude of those courtiers whom she had raised into favour. Not one, of all the multitudes she had obliged, had the humanity to bring her consolation or relief. Her frailties, in a court inured to the most atrocious crimes, were thought sufficient to justify all violations of friendship towards her, and all neglect of former obligations, and she was permitted to languish out her days in solitude and want.

Modern Europe, &c.

SIBILLA

SIBILLA, *Wife of Robert, Duke of Normandy, eldest Son of William the Conqueror; a Prince of a generous and noble Spirit, who was tenderly beloved by his Friends.*

HAVING been wounded by a poisoned arrow, the physicians declared nothing could save him, but the venom's being sucked from his wound by some one, whose life must fall a sacrifice. Robert disdained to save his own by hazarding that of another; but Sibilla did this in his sleep, and died to save her husband.

Rivalité de la Fr. & de l'Ang.

SIGEA (ALOYSIA), *a Native of Toledo, of French extraction,*

BESIDES a profound knowledge in philosophy, had learned the Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Arabic, and Syriac tongues, and written a letter in each to Pope Paul III. She was afterwards sent for to Portugal, to be companion to the Infanta, where she composed many works, and died young 1560.

SIRANI (ELIZABETH), *a most excellent Painter, born in Bologna, 1638, the Daughter of Gio. Andrea, a Painter;*

WHO, against her will, discovering the genius of his daughter, taught her design. So high was her reputation, that, in competition with her father, and many other renowned artists, she painted, in the *Certosa* of Bologna, the Baptism of Jesus Christ, in a picture of thirty hands high, in which the expression was so grand and effective, that she surpassed her

her father and the other competitors. She died universally lamented, at the age of twenty-six, 1665; by the execrable means of poison, the world was robbed of her, but it was never discovered by whom the deed was perpetrated. She was sumptuously interred in St. Dominico, in the sepulchre of Guido Reni, whose colouring in life she had followed. Her father never recovered this fatal blow, but lamented her to his death. She had two sisters, Barbara and Anna-Maria, who were painters of repute.

Abec. Pitt.

SIRIES (VIOLANTA-BEATRICE), *an Italian Paintress, born at Florence, 1710.*

SHE became the disciple of Giovanni Fratellini, who was then in high esteem, under whom she made a great progress in water colours and crayon painting. She afterwards went to France, where she learned the art of painting in oil, and executed several portraits of noble persons. She returned to Florence, and was patronised by the grand duke. One of her greatest performances is a picture, in which are represented the Portraits of the Imperial family.

Biog. Dict.

SKITTE (*the* BARONESS VENDELA), *a Swedish Lady, of great Learning,*

Who left many letters and prayers, composed by herself, and translated from other languages into Latin; died 1629, aged twenty-one. She had two sisters almost as learned as herself.

F. C.

SML-

SMITHER (ANNE), *a female Painter, in the 16th Century,*

WHO painted in miniature with such diminutive neatness, that she executed a landscape, with a windmill, millers, a cart and horse, and passengers, that half a grain would cover the whole composition. Her husband was John, a native of Ghent, a good statuary and architect; she was the mother of Lucas de Heere, a painter in the court of Queen Elizabeth.

New Amm. Reg.

SOPHONISBA, *Daughter of Asdrubal of Carthage,*

WAS promised to Massinissa, King of the Massyli; but afterwards, by the decrees of the state, in violation of public faith, given to Syphax, king of another part of Numidia; an affront which the former never forgave, in consequence of which he became the bitter enemy of her country, always siding with the Romans. Syphax, on the contrary, though at first outwardly pretending friendship to them, could not resist the solicitations of his wife to side with Carthage. Sophonisba was the greatest beauty of the age, well versed in various branches of literature, and excellently skilled in music; her voice was thought equally enchanting as her personal charms. When her husband was conquered by the Romans, she fell into the power of Massinissa, who married her; which greatly displeased the Romans; and Scipio warmly reproached him with his conduct, and desired him to separate himself from her. He feared their power; and going with much emotion to her tent, told her, that since he could neither deliver her from captivity, nor the jealousy of the Romans, he counselled her to die as became the daughter of Asdru-

Asdrubal, Sophonisba obeyed, and drank with composure and serenity the cup of poison sent to her by her husband, about 203. B. C.

Universal History--Lempriere.

SOREL (AGNES), *the Mistress of Charles VII. King of France; died of a Dysentery, 1449.*

ONE who, to many virtues, added that of turning the influence she possessed over the king to his glory, and the good of her country. She would not suffer him to sink into the luxurious indolence to which he was inclined; but animated him, by intreaties and remonstrances, to active measures against the English, and to perseverance, even when fortune did not seem in his favour.

F. C.

SOSIPATRA, *a Lydian, the Wife of Edesius,*

WHO being of a prophetic spirit, and foretelling future events, in verse no doubt, as the ancients especially were wont to do, some have not scrupled to place her among the poets. She is mentioned by Eugapius and Volaterranus.

Female Worthies.

SPILEMBERG (IRENE DE), *a Venetian,*

WHOSE paintings were frequently mistaken for those of Titian, her cotemporary. She died at the age of twenty-six, and her very competitor honoured her death by his tears.

Father Feejoo.

STAAL

STAAL (MADAME LA COMTESSE DE), *a Writer of distinguished Abilities, known first by the name of Mademoiselle de Launai, was born at Paris.*

HER father, who was by profession a painter, was for some reasons obliged to quit France, and settle in England, leaving his wife and daughter in Paris; who, having nothing to support them, were reduced to the utmost indigence, till relieved by some friends, who generously contributed to their support. The prioress of a convent, at Rouen, very humanely took care of Mademoiselle de Launai, whom she educated, and treated in all respects like the other pensioners, though some were of high rank, "by which means," says Mademoiselle de Launai, in her *Memoirs*, "I received an education much superior to what my birth and condition entitled me. It happened to me, just the reverse to that which we find in a romance, where the heroine is brought up as a simple shepherdess, and at last finds herself an illustrious princess: whereas, I was treated in my infancy as a person of distinction, and afterwards discovered, to my great mortification, that I had sprung from nothing, and had nothing in the world belonging to me. My mind not yielding to my bad fortune, I never was able to submit easily to be under the subjection and tyranny of others, or suffer quietly those indignities to which my situation so often subjected me."

In short, Mademoiselle de Launai, after having acquired a taste for the elegancies of high life, and experiencing every kind of indulgence, found herself, at the age of sixteen or seventeen, reduced to the most humiliating condition, turned out into the wide world, without

without friends or money, and deprived of every means of support, by the unfortunate death of the lady abbess.

At length, through the recommendations of the Abbé de Vertot and M. Brunel, she was appointed to be waiting maid to the Duchess du Maine, a princess of the blood royal. But finding herself unable to discharge the servile duties of that office, she was again reduced to extreme poverty; and perhaps would never have experienced a better fate, but for the following accident.

A young girl, named Tetard, by the persuasions of her mother, counterfeited being possessed. All Paris went to see her, and nothing else was talked of but this pretended demoniac. It was on this occasion that Mademoiselle de Launai wrote a letter to M. Fontenelle, which contained such good sense, such shrewd observations, and was written in so elegant a stile, that Fontenelle shewed it to many persons of the first condition, among whom was the Duchess du Maine; who, recollecting that the writer of it had served her in the capacity of a waiting-maid, immediately sent for her, and lamented that she had not been acquainted with her extraordinary merit before. The duchess, who was a patron of genius, was delighted to have near her a woman of spirit and taste. She gave magnificent fêtes at Sceaux (a seat of the Duchess); Mademoiselle de Launai planned them in future, and thus had a field to exert her taste and genius in, and even her literary talents, as she wrote verses for some of the theatrical pieces, by which she gained great applause; and by her modesty, prudence and judgment, soon acquired the esteem and confidence of the duchess, and was admired and respected by the whole court. But at length, being involved in the troubles and disgrace of her mistress, under the regency of the Duke of Orleans, she was confined

two years, in the Bastille; but she bore her misfortune with philosophy; and a circumstance which happened there, soon gave a charm to all its horrors.

During her stay she became acquainted (if we may use that expression when the parties never saw each other) with the Chevalier de Mesnil, (also a state prisoner) who lodged in the next room to her, and with whom she conversed, and corresponded. Their love was reciprocal; and this correspondence had so many charms for Mademoiselle de Launai, that she even dreaded to receive her liberty.

“It is an error,” said she, in a letter to him, “to think we are free in the midst of society, or in public. Where is the freedom, if the least of our actions are liable to be scrutinized? We are slaves to the tyranny of custom, and the fashions of the world; we dare not even think or act agreeable to our own inclinations or sentiments; our judgments are misguided, and our reason is seduced; in solitude only, we can enjoy the free liberty of thought, or be taught to form a just idea, and have a true knowledge of ourselves; for, I confess ingenuously, I never till now was well acquainted with myself; in studying ourselves impartially, and examining our nature with a strict attention, we gain a complete knowledge of mankind in general, for each individual will find within himself an epitome of the whole world.”

Recovering her liberty, she however lost her lover, whose infidelity for some time caused her much affliction. But she was soon addressed by many others; though far from handsome, she possessed attractions infinitely superior to personal beauty. Monsieur Dacier, having lost his wife, endeavoured to find consolation in an union with Mademoiselle de Launai; but the Duchess du Maine would not consent to the match. In short, Mademoiselle de Launai began to be tired, and discontented with her situation,

situation, which was at best only a genteel servitude, and formed a resolution of retiring to a convent. The Duchess, to whom she was of the utmost use, opposed this very strongly, and immediately concluded a match between her and Captain Staal, lieutenant of the Swiss-guards, afterwards Marechal de Camp; upon which she was appointed *dame d'honneur* to the duchess, eat at the same table, and accompanied her illustrious mistress in her coach.

Her memoirs, written by herself, were not published till after her death. The first volume of which, contains an account of Lewis XIVth's reign; the troubles in which the princes of the blood were involved at that monarch's death, &c. Her stile is correct and elegant. Two of her comedies, one entitled *L'Engoûment*, and the other *La Mode*, have been held in the highest estimation. She died, 1750.

A lady of great wit, and of high rank, had drawn a portrait of Madame de Staal's person and character, which that lady looked upon to be so full of partiality and flattery, that she did not approve of it, and drew it herself in the following manner.

“ Launai is of the middle size, lean, parched, dry, and disagreeable; her mind and character resemble her figure, no deformity or irregularity, but nothing pleasing. Her bad fortune has contributed to make her of value. She very fortunately received a most excellent education, and has most religiously adhered throughout her conduct, to those principles of virtue, which from a long and early practice became natural. Her greatest folly has been, to appear always reasonable; and like simple women, who by pinching up their bodies in stays, think to make their shapes fine; so she, by possessing too much reason, has found it very troublesome. The sa-

tisfaction she feels from being exempt from vanity, manifestly indicates she is not without it. She has spent her life in serious reflections and occupations, rather to fortify her reason than to ornament her mind, in which she has made but little progress. The love of liberty is her predominant passion; an unfortunate passion indeed, for one who has passed the greatest part of her time in servitude. Her condition therefore, has always been insupportable to her, notwithstanding all the unexpected advantages she has found."

Some have ventured to say, she was not so amiable as she appears in her writings; that she was negligent in her dress, capricious and pedantic; but add, that nothing ever equalled the gaiety and vivacity of her wit, when she was in good humour with herself, and with those about her: but this praise they lower, by saying she was satirical.

Mrs. Thicknesse.

STROZZI (LAURENTIA), *a learned Italian Nun, of the 15th Century,*

Who wrote a book of *Hymns*, and *Odes* upon all the holy days, which was translated into French, and set to music by Mauduit.

F. C.

STROZZI (MADELINE), *a Florentine Nun, of the 17th Century,*

Who charmed the tediousness and indolence of a cloister, by learning, and was known by her works all over Europe.

Essay by M. Thomas.

STUART (MARY), *Queen of Scotland, born 1542; daughter and heir of James V. King of Scots, by Mary, of Lorrain, his second queen.*

Was scarce eight days old at his death, which was followed

lowed by great animosities among the nobility, who contested for the administration of public affairs, and the guardianship of the young queen was at last adjudged to the Earl of Arran, the next heir to the crown in legitimate descent, and the first peer of Scotland.

King Henry VIII. wished to obtain her for his son Edward, and at last it was agreed that she should be given in marriage to that prince ; but he wished to have her educated in England, which the Scots would not comply with, which was the occasion of the famous battle of Musselburg. Upon their defeat she was conveyed by her mother into the isle of Inchmahom ; where she first learned the rudiments of the Latin, French, Spanish, and Italian tongues : of all which she afterwards became a complete mistress.

By her means, when about six years old, Mary was conveyed to France, where she was with great care educated. Her study was chiefly directed to learning the modern languages ; to these she added the Latin, in which she spoke an oration of her own composing, in the great guard-room at the Louvre, before the royal family and nobility of France. She was naturally inclined to poetry, and so great a proficient in the art, that her compositions were much valued by M. Ronsard, who was himself esteemed an eminent poet.

She had a good taste for music, and played well upon several instruments, was a fine dancer, and sat a horse gracefully ; but her chief delight seemed to be, when she was employed among her women at needle-work.

In 1558, she was married to the dauphin, afterwards Francis II. over whom her beauty and understanding gave her great influence. He dying 1560, she returned

to her native country ; leaving the most refined and gay court in Europe, for the most turbulent and austere.

Soon after she was addressed with proposals of marriage from Charles, archduke of Austria. But Queen Elizabeth, hearing of it, desired she would not marry with any foreign prince, but chuse a husband out of her own nobility, and recommended to her the earl of Leicester, threatening upon refusal, to deprive her of the succession to the crown of England. The arms and title of which, the ambition of her uncles, the Guises, had made her imprudently assume while Queen of France. Yet she now wished to obtain the good graces of Elizabeth, who did not in reality wish her to marry at all ; which Mary at length discovering, and being much in love with her cousin Henry, Lord Darnley, married him in 1565. By this husband she had one son, who was afterwards James VI. of Scotland, and I. of England. This union proved most unfortunate; the beauty of Darnley was his only merit, he was weak and cruel, and by the most capricious and teizing conduct, made Mary bitterly repent the honour she had done him. Indifferent towards her, yet ambitious of power, he wished to extort from her the matrimonial crown, and was furiously jealous of the influence any other possessed. Bursting into her apartment, with some lords, devoted to his purpose, he seized and murdered Rizzio, an Italian musician, whom he had himself first distinguished, and then in a few days openly declared he had no knowledge of the action. He threatened frequently to leave the kingdom, though it appears he had no serious intentions, but merely to distress Mary, who dreaded the censures of foreign courts, and the manner in which it might be misrepresented ; and absented himself from her, till an illness which happened

to him, being made known to Mary, whose feelings were warm and impetuous, she forgot her wrongs, and flew to his succour, nursing him herself with great tenderness, and in his promises of repentance and amendment, seeming to forget his faults. On his convalescence, he was removed to Kirkcaldy, a retired situation, which was recommended on account of quiet and good air. Here one night, 1567, during the absence of the queen, who was gone to be present at the marriage of one of her servants, he was murdered, by his apartment being blown up with gunpowder.

That Mary did not bring the conspirators to justice, has been alledged against her; but she had little power amidst the nobility; and it appears highly probable, if not an absolute fact, that the Lord Bothwell, who was first accused, had for his judges those who had instigated him to take part in the plot, the earls of Murray and Morton, who suggested to him the seizure and marriage of the queen. He accordingly got her into his power, and the outcries of the people, against the indignities and injuries she suffered, as well as the sonnet attributed to her afterwards by the conspirators themselves, which the letters contradict, shew that she was taken without her own consent; and the marriage, which soon took place on her return to Edinburgh, was not only necessary to her wounded honour; but, as she was yet in his power, and her nobles signed a paper to recommend it to her, she had no means to resist a step so fatal to her reputation and her future peace. Bothwell, who was a protestant, by profession, would not permit the marriage to be solemnized according to her faith, which Mary was very tenacious of, but in her present humbled state could not insist on.

Factions and different interests prevailing among the great, every thing ran into disorder and confusion, loyalty and obedience to the royal authority were no longer regarded, but despised and abused. The earl of Bothwell was forced to fly into Denmark to save his life. The queen was reproached as his accomplice, in the murder of Darnley, carried prisoner to Lochleven, and treated on the road with the utmost scorn and contempt. She was committed to the care of Murray's mother, who had been concubine to king James V. and whose insults added greatly to her affliction.

Queen Elizabeth sent Sir Nicholas Throckmorton into Scotland, to expostulate with the conspirators about this barbarous treatment of their queen, and consult measures to restore her to her liberty. But he returned, without being able to obtain any satisfaction, or relief for her.

After she had been imprisoned eleven months at Lochleven; and forced to comply with unreasonable terms, highly detrimental to her honour and interest, she made her escape from thence to Hamilton Castle, where there was drawn a sentence, declaratory that the grant extorted from her majesty in prison was actually void from the beginning. Whereupon such numbers of people came in to her assistance, that within two or three days she had got an army of at least 6000. Murray, on the other side, used the utmost expedition in preparing to attack the queen before she became too formidable: and when they joined battle, her army, consisting chiefly of new-raised men, was defeated, and she obliged to save herself by flight; travelling 60 miles in one day
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to the house of Lord Herris. From thence she dispatched John Beton to Elizabeth, with a diamond which she had formerly received from her, as a pledge of mutual amity ; intimating, that if her rebellious subjects should persecute her any further, she would come into England, and beg her assistance. Elizabeth returned her a kind answer. But before the messenger came, she, against the advice of her friends, found means to convey herself, accompanied by Lord Herris, Fleming, and others, into England ; and the same day wrote a letter to her in French, with her own hand, in which she gave her a long detail of her misfortunes, requesting her protection, and aid against her rebellious subjects. Queen Elizabeth, in her answers, promised to protect her, according to the equity of her cause ; and under pretence of greater security, ordered her to be conveyed to Carlisle.

Being denied access to Elizabeth, which her rebellious subjects were indulged in, and removed from one prison to another, for the space of about eighteen years, in which she had often struggled for liberty, and interested many in her cause ; she was at length brought to a trial, condemned, and beheaded, for being concerned in a conspiracy against the life of Elizabeth ; and suffered with great equanimity, in the castle of Fotheringhay, 1586-7, and interred in the cathedral church of Peterborough : but her remains were afterwards removed by her son to a vault in Henry VIIth's chapel, where a most magnificent monument was erected to her memory.

Authors vary much in their sentiments concerning the character of this queen ; but all agree, that she was most cruelly and unjustly treated. Mary

was

was the great hope of the catholics, and Elizabeth's ministers aggravated the hate of their mistress, by a sort of crusading zeal, which has no pity or faith for a heretic. The letters pretending to be written by her to Bothwell, before the death of her husband, which Mr. Whitaker has shewn to contain many internal evidences of forgery, without seal or subscription, were never, even in copies, submitted to her perusal, or that of her friends, so that she had no opportunity of exposing their falsehood. Of a height approaching to the majestic, with a beautiful and benevolent countenance, dark hair and eyes, Mary had a flexibility of mind, which yielded to her feelings, even when her understanding should have taught her better. Prone to confidence and generosity, she seemed to expect it even where she had been frequently deceived; and before confinement had subdued her feelings, was hysterical under the impression of misfortune or unkindness. She wrote *Poems* on various occasions, in Latin, Italian, French, and Scotch; *Advice to her Son*, in two books: the consolation of her long imprisonment. A great number of her original letters were preserved in the King of France's library, and in the Royal, Cottonian, and Ashmolean libraries.

Robertson, Whitaker, &c.

SULPICIA, *an ancient Roman Poetess, who lived under the reign of Domitian; and afterwards was so celebrated and admired, that she has been thought worthy of the name of the Roman Sappho.*

She wrote *some thousands of pieces*. The fragment of a satire against Domitian, who published a decree for
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the banishment of the philosophers from Rome, may be found in Scaliger's *Appendix Virgiliana*, and other collections; but has usually been printed at the end of the *Satires of Juvenal*, to whom it has been falsely attributed by some. She was the first Roman lady who taught her sex to vie with the Greeks in poetry. Her language is easy and elegant, and she seems to have had a happy talent for satire. She however wrote in many other ways, with great applause. Some elegies likewise, attributed to Tibullus, which abound in striking beauties, and are even worthy of the great poet they were erroneously given to, are now restored to Sulpicia. They are addressed to a young man (perhaps Calenus, a Roman knight, who was afterwards her husband) under the name of Cerinthus, which was that of a beautiful slave from Chalcis, mentioned by Horace, and applied only to the handsome. She is mentioned by Martial and Sidonius Apollinaris, and is said to have addressed to her husband, Calenus, a poem, on conjugal love. That the Romans should have produced not one poetess before Sulpicia, to put them more on a level with the Greeks, is matter of no small astonishment. She was certainly a woman of great genius, learning and beauty.

Grainger's Tibullus, and Biog. Dict.

SUZE (HENRIETTA DE COLIGNI, COUNTESS DE), a French Lady, Daughter of the Marshal de Coligni; an elegant Poetess, died 1673.

SHE married first Thomas Hamilton, a Scottish nobleman; and after his death, the Count De la Suze. This second marriage proved very unfortunate to her, and occasioned her infinite vexations. The count had conceived such

such a jealousy of her, that to keep her out of the way of temptation, he confined her in one of his country houses. The countess being thus immured knew not how to recover her liberty, but by declaring herself a Roman catholic, her husband being a Hugonot. This, however, produced nothing, except a more violent enmity. At length she proposed a dissolution of their marriage, and to induce him to agree to it, offered him 25,000 crowns. The count accepted the terms, and the parliament dissolved their marriage: upon which it was said that the countess had lost 50,000 crowns in the management of this affair; since, if she would have been patient a little longer, instead of paying 25,000 crowns to her husband, she would have received 25,000 from him; so desirous was he to get rid of her. Queen Christina, of Sweden, said upon the occasion, "That the Countess de la Suze had turned catholic, and separated from her husband, that she might never see him more, either in this world or the next."

This lady had brought herself into extreme embarrassments. One morning about eight o'clock, an officer came to seize her goods: her woman acquainting her with the affair, the officer was desired to walk up to her chamber, where she was in bed. "Sir," said she, "I have scarce had a wink of sleep all night, and must beg your patience for an hour or two." After which she fell asleep till ten o'clock, and then dressed herself in order to go and dine in town, where she had been invited. As she came out of her apartment, she said to the officer, "Sir, I thank you very heartily for your civility, and leave you master here."

Being free from all troublesome connexions, she gave herself up intirely to poetry; and excelled particularly in the elegiac way; her songs, madrigals, and odes, being reckoned

reckoned much inferior to her elegies, which abound in wit, delicacy, and fine turn of sentiment. Her poems are collected and printed with those of Pelisson and Mad. de Scudery, at Trevoux, 1725, in four volumes, 12mo.

Female Worthies.

T.

TALBOT (MISS), *a Writer of the last Century,*

Who with her mother was an inmate in the house of Bishop Secker, wrote *Essays*, in two volumes, and other works.

TARABOTI (CATERINA), *the Disciple of Alexander Varotari, in Venice,*

HONOURED painting by her diligent pencil, and added lustre to the catalogue of Venetian female painters.

Abec. Pitt.

TELESILLA, *a noble Lyric Poetess of Argos,*

Who, upon consulting the oracle about her health, being advised to betake herself to the study of the Muses, rendered her country illustrious by her writings, and saved it by her courage. The city was on the point of falling into the hands of the Lacedemonians: it had lost six thousand men, among whom were the flower of its youth. Telesilla collected the women most proper to second her designs, furnished them with arms, which she
pro-

provided from the temples or houses of individuals, placed herself with them on the walls, and finally repulsed the enemy, who, through fear of being reproached either with victory or defeat, retired from before the city. The most signal honours were paid to these female warriors, some of whom fell in the combat.

Travels of Anacharsis the younger.

TENCIN (CLAUDE GUERIN DE), *Canoness de Neuville; Sister of Cardinal Tencin; born at Paris, 1681; died 1749, aged 68;*

WAS five years a nun, at Montfleuri, in Dauphiny, but she recanted her vows and left the convent. She is said to have had an excellent heart, a strong and yet delicate mind. "One of those superior souls, who find new resources when others would lose all power of action; who may be afflicted, but never cast down or troubled; whom one admires in grief more than one pities; whose sadness is calm and dignified in the greatest misfortunes, and whose gaiety is never intemperate on the most joyful events. She has been seen in all these situations, and has been equal to them all, not forgetting the least thing, or being taken up with any selfish cares, to the neglect of her duty to her friends." Her works are *Le Comte de Comminges*; *Le Siège de Calais*; and *Les Malheurs de l'Amour*; romances, full of interest and feeling.

F. C. &c.

THARGELIA, *a Milesian Courtezan,*

WHO to the charms of her person, added a peculiar politeness and poignant wit, and had so much influence that she is said to have engaged more than one Grecian city in the Persian interest. Afterwards, she obtained the

sove-

sovereignty of Thessaly, but came to an untimely end, being murdered by one of her lovers.

Plutarch.

THEANO, *a triple Female Name of considerable Repute in Poetry.*

THE first of this name was Theano Locrensis, a native of the city of Locri, and surnamed Melica, from the exact melody to which all her lyric airs and songs were composed. The second, a Cretan poetess, is by some said to have been the wife of Pythagoras. The third, Theano Thuria, or Metapontina, daughter of the poet Lycophron. They are all three mentioned by Suidas. There are also three epistles of Theano, probably one of the three now mentioned, though which of them is not determined, published, with the epistles of several ancient Greek authors, at Venice, by Aldus.

Female Worthies.

THERESA, *of a noble Family, at Avila, in Spain; born 1514, died 1585.*

WHEN about six or seven years of age, she and her young brother formed a resolution of going into Africa, to seek martyrdom among the Moors; but an uncle stopped them in their flight. As she grew up, she employed herself in reading romances, and even composed some; but learning the futility of this study, began to read good authors, and to be very religious. She renounced her prospects in the world, and became a nun; but the rules of the convent being relaxed from their original austerity, Theresa was dissatisfied with them, and founded another in the same city, far more strict. She composed many religious works, which were esteemed excel-

lent

lent by those of the Catholic communion; and founded seventeen monasteries.

F. C.

THERESA (MARIA), *Queen of Hungary, &c.*

ON the death of Charles VI. Maria-Theresa, his eldest daughter, married to Francis of Lorrain, Grand duke of Tuscany, claimed, by right of blood, and in virtue of the Pragmatic Sanction, guaranteed by all the powers of Europe, the whole of the Austrian succession: this comprized the kingdoms of Hungary and Bohemia, the provinces of Silesia, Suabia, Upper and Lower Austria, Stiria, Carinthia, Carniola, the forest towns, Burgaw, Brisgaw, the Low Countries, Friuli, Tirol, the duchy of Milan, and the duchies of Parma and Placentia. The wishes of the people immediately declared themselves, in the most unequivocal manner, in favour of their new sovereign, who from this unanimity derived her chief support. She received, at Vienna, the homage of the Austrian states; the Italian provinces, and kingdom of Bohemia, sent deputies to tender their oaths of allegiance; and she ingratiated herself with the Hungarians, by voluntarily taking the ancient oath of their sovereign, by which their subjects are allowed, if their privileges are invaded, to take up arms in their own defence, without being treated as rebels. Her first act of administration was to associate her husband in the government of her dominions, under the denomination of co-regent, in virtue of a diploma, first registered in all the Austrian tribunals, and afterwards in those of her other territories. But, resolved to fulfil the intentions of her father, she gave up no part of her sovereignty, nor violated, in the smallest degree, the provisions of the Pragmatic

Pragmatic Sanction. Her object, in investing her husband with fresh dignities, was not to derive any assistance from him in the management of her affairs, but to render him, in the eyes of the electors, more worthy of the imperial crown. But though this princess was permitted peaceably to take possession of her vast inheritance, it was not long before various competitors appeared. Charles Albert, elector of Bavaria, asserted his right to Bohemia, the King of Sardinia resumed his claim to Milan, the kings of Spain and Poland urged their pretensions to the whole succession, and Lewis the XVth, that he might not awaken the jealousy of Europe, sought to aggrandize himself by gaining, in conjunction with the king of Prussia, the votes of the principal electors for placing the Imperial crown on the head of the elector of Bavaria. The king of Prussia had demanded a part of Silesia, in virtue of some obsolete and annulled treaties, and on those terms had proffered his friendship. These having been rejected with disdain by the queen, he entered Silesia with a powerful army, and pursued his conquests with great rapidity. A treaty was formed between Prussia, France, the elector of Bavaria, and Poland, to place the crown on the head of the elector, and strip the queen of the greater part of her dominions; and after a few months he made his public entry into the capital, and was inaugurated with the usual solemnities. At this period the Queen of Hungary found herself abandoned by all her allies, and apparently resigned as a prey to the ambition and rapacity of the neighbouring powers. Her courage, however, never forsook her, and she was fortunately provided with good officers and an able ministry. She retired to Presburg; having assembled the states, addressed them in a pathetic Latin speech, and holding in her arms her infant son, “I

place in your hands," said she, "the daughter and son of your king, who expect to be indebted to you for their preservation." All the Hungarian Palatines, moved by her distress, drew their sabres, and unanimously exclaimed, "*Moriamur pro rege nostro, Maria Theresa!*" The scene was rendered more affecting by the condition of the queen, who was then pregnant, and who, in a letter to the Duchess of Lorrain, had expressed her doubts whether she should have a town left in which she could be delivered. The ban being raised, the brave Hungarians crowded to her standard, and the diet expressed their resentment against her enemy, excluding for ever the electoral house of Bavaria from the succession to the crown of Hungary. By a pecuniary supply from England, she was enabled to erect magazines, pay her army, complete her warlike preparations, and put her places of strength in a posture of defence. Her generals opening their way into Bavaria, laid the whole country under contribution, while Count Khevenhuller compelled the French troops to retreat before him, and reduced them to the greatest distress. Many battles were fought; the Austrians and Hungarians were generally victorious, until a desperate one, when, after each had been alternately victorious, the preference remained with Prussia. The Queen of Hungary perceived the necessity of getting rid of an enemy so formidable, from his vigilance, youth, activity, prudence, and valour, in short from an union of all the qualities that constitute the great general, politician, and statesman. She therefore resigned to him all he had conquered, from a conviction that by making this sacrifice she should be enabled to preserve the rest of her dominions, and perhaps to exact from the other competitors a reparation for her losses; and the king deemed himself fortunate, in securely

curely obtaining by treaty the fruits of two campaigns. He therefore concluded a peace separate from his allies. The French were obliged to retreat, and reduced to such distress in Bohemia, by means of the Austrian army, that horseflesh, which was served up at the best tables, cost more than 2s. 6d. a pound. Cardinal Fleury, who had been drawn into the war against his wishes, wrote a cowardly apology to the Austrian general; at once expressive of his regret and imbecility. The consequence was such as might have been foreseen: his letter was treated with contempt, and the queen, instead of answering it, ordered it to be printed. The cardinal in a second letter, complained of this, declaring that in future he would never write what he thought. The French were blockaded in Prague, 1742, from July, till December; when at length the army effected a dangerous escape; and the garrison marched out with the honours of war. In Italy the affairs of Maria Theresa were equally prosperous, and the designs of her enemies frustrated. The king of Sardinia, who had placed himself on the list of competitors, by forming pretensions to the Milanese, had acceded to the treaty between France and the elector of Bavaria, thinking to profit by the spoils of the persecuted queen; but when he found that the Spaniards, professing the same designs as himself, had sent troops into the disputed territory, he acknowledged his mistaken policy, and perceived that by persevering in the system he had adopted, his labour would only tend to the aggrandizement of another power, and he considered that it was better the duchy of Milan should remain in the hands of the house of Austria, than be transferred to the house of Bourbon, whom he considered as a more formidable and dangerous neighbour. Impelled therefore by these motives, he renounced his alliance with

France, and concluded a treaty with the queen of Hungary, joined the Austrian troops, and in conjunction with them, defeated the duke of Modena, the ally of Spain.

At this period, 1743, the Queen of Hungary seemed to triumph over all her enemies; his Imperial majesty, thinking himself unsafe even in the capital of his electorate, retired to Augsburg, and Munich fell a third time into her hands; while the Emperor, abandoned by his allies, repaired to Frankfort, where he lived in indigence and obscurity; and even his private treasures, plate, and cabinets, fell into the hands of his enemy. Various battles were fought. England now became a principal against France, by a treaty concluded at Worms, between his Britannic Majesty, the King of Sardinia, and Queen of Hungary, 1743.

The Queen refused to assent to an accommodation, hoping to obtain still more favourable terms; but her inflexibility proved favourable to the Emperor. The forlorn situation of this prince, excited the compassion, and roused the resentment of various potentates. The treaty of Frankfort was concluded, May 1744, between the Kings of Prussia and Sweden, as a German power in the empire, and the Elector Palatine; they engaged to preserve the constitutions of the Empire, and to support the Emperor in his rank and dignity; and agreed to interpose their good offices with the Queen of Hungary, that she might acknowledge the Emperor, restore his hereditary dominions, and give up the archives of the Empire that were in her possession. This confederacy broke all the measures of the King of England and Queen of Hungary. Various was the fate of the different battles fought, when, in 1745, Charles VIIth sunk beneath the united pressure of disease and calamity. The Grand-Duke

Duke of Tuscany, consort to Maria-Theresa, was immediately declared a candidate for the Imperial throne, while his pretensions were warmly opposed by Lewis and his allies.

The court of Vienna, taking advantage of the late Emperor's death, sent an army into Bavaria, and expelled the forces of the electorate. The young elector was obliged to abandon his capital, where he found himself in danger of losing all his dominions. In this emergency, he suffered the dictates of reason to prevail over the suggestions of ambition, and acceded to a negotiation with the court of Vienna. A negotiation was opened, and the treaty concluded. The queen consented to recognize the Imperial dignity as having been vested in the person of his father; to acknowledge his mother, as empress dowager; to restore his dominions, fortresses, artillery, stores and ammunition, which she had taken. While, on his part, he renounced all claim to the succession of his father; became guarantee of the Pragmatic Sanction, and also engaged his vote for the grand-duke at the ensuing election, and acknowledged the validity of that of Bohemia in the person of the queen.

A war, the avowed object of which was to place and preserve Charles VIIth on the throne, ought to have terminated with his death, particularly after his son had formally renounced the dignity enjoyed by his father. But the French ministry, intent on having an Emperor of their own choice, had cast their eyes on the King of Poland, a monarch whom they had long considered as an usurper; but the minister of Augustus prevented his falling into the snare. The other efforts of Lewis were fruitless; the Grand-duke repaired to Frankfort, where, by a majority of votes, he was declared King of the Ro-

mans and Emperor of Germany, 1745, by the title of Francis I.

The French sought to deprive Theresa of some of her Italian territories; but having placed her consort on the Imperial throne, and concluded a treaty with her most formidable opponent, she would not quietly submit to their dismemberment. Marshal Saxe, and Prince Charles of Lorraine, brother to the Emperor, headed the different armies, which were alternately successful. Germany; England, Sardinia, Holland, and part of Italy, against France, Spain, and Genoa; until at length the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle restored peace to the distracted continent.

But the empress queen, mortified at her inability to make peace with the King of Prussia, without sacrificing Silesia, harbouring the liveliest resentment against that monarch, determined, whenever a favourable opportunity should occur, to have recourse to arms, for the recovery of the territory she had been obliged to cede. Influenced by these motives, she ceased to consider France as her rival; and a flexible policy even induced her to court the alliance. At first the Queen made some vague remarks, in a conversation with the French *chargé d'affaires*, on the difference between the present situation of the houses of Bourbon and Austria, and that which two centuries before had armed them against each other; and added, that the equilibrium was now so perfectly established, that it was the interest of neither to overturn it, and that their union would ensure the tranquillity of Europe, or that, if any inferior powers should attempt to overturn it, the two courts would have both right and ability to reduce them to submission. But finding the court of France at first averse to her design, she suspended her projects, but did
not

not abandon it. In 1756, she explained herself more fully; and, independent of the political reasons which might equally affect both powers, she added her resentment against the King of Prussia. "I have sacrificed," said she, "my dearest interests to the tranquillity of Europe, by ceding Silesia; but if ever a war should break out between him and me, I will either recover all my rights, or perish with my family in the attempt."

The Imperial ambassador at the court of Versailles attempted to convince the ministers of the wisdom of his plan, and particularly Madame de Pompadour, whose support, from the credit she enjoyed, he deemed it most essential to secure. Nor was this lady insensible to the idea of playing a nobler part than any she had hitherto performed in politics. She adopted the project of the ambassador; but found the ministry so hostile to it, that she durst not venture to present it to the king. Affairs were in this situation, when war broke out again between France and England: Prussia offered himself as the confederate of France; but, aware she could not accept it without a rupture with the empress queen, she took so long to determine, that he concluded an amicable one with England, in the interim of their deliberations. The Imperial ambassador still had recourse to Madame de Pompadour, who broke the matter to the king. Lewis was impressed with sentiments of esteem for a princess against whom he had waged a war unfounded in justice, while he entertained an unfavourable opinion of Frederick, whom he considered as a self-sufficient heretic, and a free-thinker. A conference accordingly took place between the Imperial and French ministers and Madame de Pompadour. The former displayed the utmost candour and frankness, and declared the empress justly conceived it would be inconsistent
with

with the dignity of the two greatest potentates in Europe, to have recourse to those pitiful arts and subterfuges, which, by diplomatic corps, are too frequently considered as marks of political wisdom. All the views and pretensions of the court of Vienna were explained; and after much discussion, and many objections in the French council, a treaty of alliance was agreed on, and war again ravaged the nations. At first Prussia was rapidly victorious; and shortly after, such are the vicissitudes of war, every thing seemed to announce his ruin, and the successes of the Austrians. The empress had entirely engaged the influence of Madame de Pompadour, to whom she occasionally wrote, flattering her vanity in the highest degree; and though France was extremely injured by the war, and the defeat of Rosbach, yet Madame, regarding the treaty as her work, and the empress as her friend, would not suffer the encouragement of the idea of an accommodation with the enemy.

England and Prussia exerted their utmost endeavours to attack France and the Empress at the same time; and after much bloodshed, and various success, necessity obliged them to negotiate for peace; although she was extremely mortified at the being obliged to suspend her resentment against Prussia: but from a change in the French ministry, effected by Madame de Pompadour, war was still continued, until 1762, when, after the peace between Spain, France, and England, a treaty was concluded between Prussia and the empress-queen, by which all conquests were mutually restored.

Maria Theresa was the patroness of Metastasio, the Italian poet, whose beautiful dramas were frequently acted at court by the archduchesses, her daughters, amongst whom was the late queen of France. She was much beloved in the neighbourhood of the court, and cer-

certainly possessed courage, address, and magnanimity in misfortune.

Gifford's History of France.

THOMAS (MRS.) *known to the World by the poetical name of Corinna.*

FROM her very birth, in 1675, she was of so delicate and tender a constitution, that had she not been of a gay disposition, and possessed of a vigorous mind, she must have been more unhappy than she actually was. Her father dying when she was scarce two years old, and her mother not knowing his real circumstances, some inconveniences were incurred, in bestowing upon him a pompous funeral. When her mother married him, on the supposition of his being wealthy, he was upwards of sixty, and herself eighteen, but she was miserably deceived. She disposed of two houses her husband kept, one in town, the other in Essex, and retired into a private lodging. Here it was her misfortune to become acquainted with a certain philosophical doctor, who pretended he had made a discovery of the philosopher's stone, and so far insinuated himself into her good opinion, that she was prevailed upon to advance £.300 upon the credit of his invention, in order to prepare works for the grand operation. But coming to the last trial, when the success was every moment expected, all his works were blown up at once, and her eyes were opened to see how grossly she had been imposed upon. But I should have observed, that during the process, the doctor acted the part of a tutor to Corinna, in arithmetic, Latin, and mathematics, to which she discovered a very strong propensity.

Mrs. Thomas, on this occasion, suffered a good deal of secret anguish; she was ashamed of having reduced
her

her fortune, and impoverished her child, by listening to the insinuations of a villain. Time and patience at last overcame it; and when her health, which by this accident had been¹ much impaired, was restored, she took a house in Bloomsbury, and by œconomy, and an elegant appearance, was supposed to be better in the world than she really was. Her husband's clients received her like one risen from the dead; they visited and promised to serve her. At last the duke of Montague advised her to let lodgings, which way of life she declined, as her talents were not suited for dealing with ordinary lodgers; "but if I knew," added she, "any family that desired such a conveniency, I would readily accommodate them." "I take you at your word," replied the duke, "I will become your sole tenant;" and accordingly he used to meet there some of his noble friends to concert about the revolution: after it took place, they took leave of the lady, with promises of obtaining a pension, or some place in the household for her: she had a very good claim to some appointment, having been ruined by the shutting up the exchequer, but nothing came of these promises. The duke of Montague indeed made offers of service, and being captain of the band of pensioners, she asked him to admit Mr. Gwynnet, who had made love to her daughter, in such a post. This he promised, but desired that her daughter should ask him for it; but how amazed was she to find her, who had never discovered the least instance of disobedience, absolutely refuse to ask any favour of his grace: and continuing obstinate in her resolution, her mother obliged her to explain herself. Upon which she told her that his designs were dishonourable: the explanation was but too satisfactory; and his mean and ungenerous conduct too apparent to admit of any excuse.

In the mean time Corinna continued to improve her mind by reading the politest authors. Upon Mr. Gwynnet's first discovering his passion, she remonstrated with him on the inequality of their fortunes, as her affairs were then in a very perplexed situation. This objection was soon surmounted by a lover, especially as his father had already given him possession of the greatest part of his estate, and leave to please himself. Mr. Gwynnet no sooner obtained this than he came to London, and claimed Corinna's promise of marriage: but her mother being then in a very weak condition, she could not abandon her in that distress, to die among strangers. She therefore told Mr. Gwynnet, that as she had not thought sixteen years long in waiting for him, he could not think six months long in expectation of her. He replied, with a sigh, "Six months, at this time, my Corinna, is more than sixteen years have been; you have put it off now, and God will put it off for ever." It proved as he had foretold; he next day went into the country, made his will, sickened, and died, 1711, leaving her the bequest of 600*l.* and, adds she, "Sorrow has been my food ever since." Had she providentially married him, she had been secure from the distresses of poverty: but duty to her parent was more prevalent than considerations of convenience. After the death of her lover she was barbarously used: his brother stifled the will, which compelled her to have recourse to law; he smothered the old gentleman's conveyance deed, by which he was enabled to make a bequest, and offered a large sum of money to any person to blacken Corinna's character, but could find none wretched enough for his purpose. At last, to shew her respect to the memory of her deceased lover, she consented to an accommodation, to receive 200*l.* down, and 200*l.* at the year's end. The first payment was made,
and

distributed instantly among her mother's creditors; but when the other became due, he bid her defiance, stood suit on his own bond, and held her out four terms. He carried it from one court to another, till at last it was brought to the bar of the house of lords; and as that is a tribunal where the chicanery of lawyers can have no weight, he thought proper to pay the money without a hearing. The gentlemen of the long robe had made her sign an instrument, that they should receive the money and pay themselves, and she received but 13l. 16s. which reduced her to the necessity of absconding from her creditors, and starving in an obscure corner, till she was betrayed by a false friend, and hurried to gaol. Besides all her other calamities, she fell into a dangerous fit of illness by a mere accident. In April 1711, she swallowed the middle bone of the wing of a large fowl, being above three inches long; she had the end in her mouth, and speaking hastily, it went forcibly down in the act of inspiration. At first she felt no pain; but in a few days she complained of a load at her stomach. After this she fell into a violent pain, convulsions, and swooning fits, and was seized with a malignant fever. In this deplorable condition she continued, except some small intervals, for about two years, notwithstanding all that the most eminent physicians could do for her. They sent her to Bath, where she found relief, and continued tolerably well for some years, even to bear the fatigue of an eight years suit with an unjust executor.

Being deprived of a competent fortune by cross accidents, she suffered all the extremities of a close imprisonment, and was in want of all the necessities of life, lying on boards for two years. On recovering liberty, and beginning to use exercise, she was judged to be in a dropsy; but no medicines taking place, was given over as incurable;

curable; when nature unexpectedly helped itself: but the water in her stomach gathered again, and was always attended with a hectic or suffocating asthma. Amongst her other misfortunes, she suffered the displeasure of Mr. Pope, who gave her a place in his *Dunciad*. Mr. Pope once paid her a visit, in company with Henry Cromwell, Esq; whose letters, by some accident, fell into her hands, with some of Pope's answers. As soon as that gentleman died, Mr. Curl found means to wheedle them from her, and immediately committed them to the press. This so enraged Mr. Pope, that he never forgave her. Not many months after she had been released from her gloomy habitation, she took a small lodging in Fleet-street, where she died 1730, aged 56, and was interred in the church of St. Bride.

Corinna, considered as an authoress, is of the second rate: she had not so much wit as Mrs. Behn, or Mrs. Manley, nor so happy a power of intellectual painting, but her poetry is soft and delicate, her letters sprightly and entertaining. Her poems were published after her death, by Curl; and two volumes of letters, which passed between her and Mr. Gwynnet.

Female Worthies.

THONA, *a Moorish Spaniard, who is called HABIBA, of Valentia.*

SKILLED in grammar and jurisprudence, wrote celebrated books on both subjects. She died in the 506th year of the Hegira.

Bibliothecæ Arabico-Hispanæ Escorialiensis.

THYMELE, *a musical Poetess, mentioned by Martial,*

SAID to have first introduced into the scene a sort of dance,

dance, which, from her, the Greeks called Themelinos. From her also a sort of altar, antiently often used in the theatre, is concluded to have taken its appellation.

Female Worthies.

TIMARETE, *Daughter and Scholar of Micon, junior, the Painter.*

SHE drew a Diana, in Ephesus.

Pliny, lib. 35, cap. 6, and 11.

TINTORETTA (MARIETTA), *of Venice, Daughter and Disciple of the famous Tintoret;*

FOR a long time dressed as a man. She assisted her father in painting: she excelled in singing and music; and was so beloved by her father, that he could not bear to part with her, though the Emperor, the king of Spain, and other princes, invited her to their courts. She was always using her pencil, in portraits of ladies and cavaliers, copied exactly the works of her father, and made others of her own invention. But she died in the flower of her age, 1590, bitterly lamented by her father, and her husband, who was a German.

Abec. Pitt.

TOLLET (ELIZABETH), *a Poetess of the 17th Century; Daughter of George Tollet, Esq. Commissioner of the Navy, in the Reigns of King William and Queen Anne.*

SHE received a handsome fortune from her father, who also bestowed on her a liberal education. Besides great skill in music and drawing, she applied herself to the study of the Latin, Italian, and French languages, and spoke

spoke them all with fluency and ease. She afterwards made great progress in the mathematics and history. In the former part of her life she resided in the Tower of London; in the latter, at Stratford and Westham, in Essex. She died, 1754, aged sixty, and was buried in Westham church.

In her *Poems*, published 1755, are several imitations and translations of Horace; a translation of Claudian's *Old Man of Verona*; *An Ode on the Crucifixion*; *Rules, in verse, to her Brother, on his Conduct in Life*; *A Paraphrase of Agur's Wish*; *The Destruction of Babylon, from Isaiah*; select Psalms; and other little compositions, equally entertaining and pious.

Christian's Magazine.

TOTT (BRIDGET), *a Danish Lady, of a noble Family, in the 17th century.*

SHE translated, into Danish, the works of the most celebrated authors of antiquity. Sophia and Mary Belowe, her mother and aunt, were learned in ancient and modern languages, in history and genealogy. Elizabeth Tott, her niece and pupil, was also very learned, and composed works which shewed talents, but she died at the age of twenty.

F. C.

TRIMOUILLE (GABRIELLA DE BOURBON, DAME DE LA), *a distinguished French Writer; died 1516.*

DAUGHTER of Louis, Comte de Montpensier, and wife of Louis de la Trimouille. She had by him an only son, who falling in a duel, his disconsolate mother did not long survive him.

Her

Her works are, *L'Instruction des Jeunes Pucelles; Le Temple du S. Esprit; Le Voyage du Penitente; Les Contemplations de l'Ame Devoté sur les Mysteres de l'Incarnation et de la Passion de Jesus Christ.*

F. C. &c.

TRIVULCE (DAMIGELLA), of Milan, a Lady of a noble Family,

Who wrote many works, in Greek and Latin; pronounced many orations before popes, bishops, and princes; and was considered learned at an age when youth is hardly supposed capable of application.

F. C. &c.

TROTHER (CATHERINE), descended of Scotch Parents, but born in England.

SHE wrote five plays, wherein the passions are well described, and the diction is just and familiar. They are *Agnes de Castro, Fatal Friendship, The Unhappy Penitent, The Revolution of Sweden*, tragedies; and *Love at a Loss*, a comedy.

Mrs. Trother was inclined to philosophical studies, and wrote a small piece in defence of Mr. *Locke's Essay on the Human Understanding*. Some time after writing her last play, she was, by the late bishop of Salisbury, converted from the Romish persuasion, and by his lordship's recommendation married to a clergyman.

Female Worthies.

TYMICHA, was a Lacedemonian Lady, the Consort of one Myllias, a native of Crotona.

JAMBLICHUS, in his life of Pythagoras, places her at the head of his list or roll of the most celebrated female phi-

philosophers of the Pythagorean sect. When Tymicha was taken into custody with her husband, and carried before Dionysius the tyrant, he made them both very advantageous offers; but they rejected them with scorn and detestation. Whereupon the tyrant took the husband aside first; and promised to release him with honour, on condition only that he would discover the reason why the Pythagoreans chose rather to die than to trample upon beans: without the least hesitation, he made him the following reply, viz. that as that sect chose rather to die, than to tread upon beans, so he would chuse to tread upon beans, rather than to gratify his curious enquiry. The tyrant not succeeding with the husband, took the wife apart, not doubting from her situation at that time, and the additional terror of the torture with which he intended to menace her, she would soon be prevailed on to discover the important secret. Upon the trial, however, he found himself perfectly baffled: for she instantly bit off her tongue, and spat it in the tyrant's face, that no torture, how inhuman soever, might force her to divulge the mysteries of the Pythagorean science.

Female Worthies, &c.

U.

UTTMAN (BARBARA) *a German,*

THE inventor of the method of weaving lace, in 1561.

Beckmann's Hist. of Inventions.

V.

VALADA, *a Moorish Spaniard, Daughter of King Al-mostakeph, of Corduba,*

WONDERFULLY skilled in polite learning, and on that account much celebrated by writers. She more than once contending with scholars noted for their learning, in rhetoric, and always bore away the palm from them. She died 1091.

Bibliotheca Arabico-Hispanæ Escorialiensis.

VALENTINOIS (DIANA DE POICTIERS, DUCHESSE DE); *born about 1496, or 1500; died 1566;*

So that she must have been at least forty years of age, when Henry II. at the age of eighteen, became so deeply attached to her: and though near sixty at the death of this prince, she had always maintained her ascendancy over him. She married, 1541, Lewis de Brezé, at that time grand seneschal of Normandy; and married her daughters very advantageously, the second to the Prince de Sedan. In 1549 she was made Duchesse de Valentinois. In 1552 she nursed the queen in a dangerous illness, notwithstanding she did not love her. She preferred the interest of the state to the aggrandizement of her family, and she loved the glory of her King. Her charities were immense; and every man distinguished for genius was sure of her support. Yet, towards the end of the reign of Henry, she did not make so good use of her power, for she persuaded him to break the truce with Spain,

Spain, which was the source of many evils to France. She had done this at the instance of the Cardinal of Lorraine, who, with the rest of the Guises, no sooner saw the event, than they leagued with the Queen Catherine de Medicis, to ruin Diana, if she would consent to the marriage of their niece, Mary, Queen of Scots, to the dauphin. This was done, and the duchess remained without support: but she lost not her firmness; and, on the return of the king, he promised to inform her of all the plots of her enemies. But he died of a wound received in a tournament, 1558, when he wore her colours, black and white, for it was then the custom for widows always to remain in mourning. Catherine sent her an order to deliver up the royal jewels, and retire to one of her castles. "Is the King dead?" said she, "No, madam, but he cannot live till night." "Well then," said she, "I have as yet no master. And when he shall be no more, I fear them not. Should I be so unfortunate as to survive him, for any length of time, I shall be too wretched, to be sensible of their malice." Catherine, however, was persuaded not to persecute the duchess, who in gratitude made her a present of a superb mansion, situated amidst the lands belonging to the queen's dowry; who, in return, gave her another. Diana retired to Anet, but was recalled, in 1561, by Catherine, to detach the constable from his nephews, the Chatillons; which service she performed, as she had the greatest influence over his mind. She was sixty years old at the time of her death. She was tall, had very black curling hair, and a white skin, beautiful teeth, a fine form, and a noble mien.

"Six months before her death," says Brantome, "I saw her so handsome, that no heart of adamant would have been insensible of her charms, though she

had sometime before broken one of her legs upon the paved stones of Orleans. She had been riding on horse-back, and kept her seat as dextrously and well as she had ever done. One would have expected that the pain of such an accident would have made some alteration at least in her lovely face: but this was not the case; she was as beautiful, graceful, and handsome, in every respect, as she had always been." She is the only mistress, I believe, whose medal was struck. "M. Pierce," says l'Etoile, "sent me the model of the Duchess de Valentinois, struck in copper: on one side is her effigy, with this inscription, *Diana, Dux Valentinorum clarissima*; and on the reverse, *Omnium victorum vici*, I have conquered the conqueror of all." I believe it was the city of Lyons, where this duchess was much beloved, that caused this medal to be struck, and that the inscription applied to Henry II. who had another medal struck, in 1552, where she is represented under the figure of Diana; with these words, *Nomen ad Astra*. The Henry and Diana, with crescents, that is to say, the H's and D's, which were cyphered in the Louvre, are still greater proofs of the passion of this prince. She told Henry II. who wished to acknowledge a daughter he had by her, "I was born of a family, (the old counts of Poitiers) which entitled me to have had legitimate children by you; I have been your mistress, because I loved you; but I will not suffer any *arrêt* to declare me so." She was fond of exercise, and enjoyed uninterrupted health.

Hist. Essays on Paris, &c.

VALENTINOIS (CHARLOTTE D'ALBRET, DUCHESS DE), *Sister of John d'Albret, King of Navarre, and Wife of Cæsar Borgia,*

WHOSE misfortunes she shared, without reproaching him

him with his vices. She was pious, sensible and witty, and had much genius for poetry. Died 1514.

L'Advocat.

VALERIA, *Daughter of the Emperor Dioclesian,*

WAS married to Galerius, on his being created Cesar, about 292; afterwards he became Emperor. On his death bed, 311, he recommended her, and his natural son Candidien, (whom he had caused her to adopt, having no children of her own,) to Licinius, his friend, whom he had raised to be emperor; intreating him to prove their protector and father. Her mother, Prisca, accompanied her in all her troubles, though Dioclesian was still living. Licinius was the slave of avarice and voluptuousness. Valeria was beautiful; he proposed himself to her in marriage, knowing the second husband would have great right over the heritage of the first. But insensible to love, and too proud to shock that propriety which would not permit an empress to yield to a second marriage, she fled from the court of Licinius, with Prisca, and Candidien, and sought refuge with Maximin, one of the other emperors. He had already a wife and children; and, as the adopted son of Galerius, had been accustomed to regard Valeria as a mother: but his brutal and passionate soul took fire even sooner than that of Licinius. Valeria was yet in the first year of her mourning; he solicited her favour by means of his confident, declaring he was ready to divorce his present wife, if she would consent to take her place: she answered, "that still wearing the garb of mourning, she could not think of marriage; that Maximin should remember the husband of Valeria was his father, whose ashes were not cold; that he could not commit a greater injustice than

to divorce a wife by whom he was beloved ; and that she could not flatter herself with better treatment ; in fine, that it would be an unprecedented and dishonourable thing for a woman of her rank to engage in a second marriage." This firm and generous answer being taken to Maximin, roused his fury. He proscribed Valeria, made himself master of her possessions, took away from her her officers, or put them to death by torments, and banished her and her mother. To add insult to persecution, he caused to be condemned to death, under a false accusation of adultery, several ladies of the court, who were the friends of Prisca or Valeria. Meanwhile Valeria, exiled to the deserts of Syria, found means to inform Dioclesian of her misery : he immediately sent an express to Maximin, intreating the surrender of his daughter ; but he was not attended to. He redoubled his solicitations, and implored of gratitude what was due to justice ; but in vain, till the unhappy father sunk, over whelmed with grief. At length these unfortunate princesses found means to escape, disguised to Nicomedia, where Licinius was, and they mingled unknown amongst the domestics of Candidien. Licinius soon becoming jealous of him, who was sixteen years of age, caused him to be assassinated. Valeria again fled, and for fifteen months wandered in different provinces, under disguises most proper to conceal her rank. At length she was discovered and arrested, with her mother, in Thessalonica, in the year 315 ; and at last these two unfortunate princesses, for no other crime than their rank and chastity, were condemned to death by the pitiless Licinius, amidst the useless tears of the people. They were beheaded, and their bodies afterwards thrown into the sea. Some authors assert they were Christians.

Bas Empire.

VAL-

VALLIERE (LOUISA, DUCHESS DE LA), *a beautiful and innocent young Woman, in the service of Henrietta, Duchess of Orleans.*

LOUIS XIV. was in love with the latter; but, to hide it from the eyes of the duke, pretended to attach himself to La Valliere, till his passion became real. She is said to have given Fontaine the idea of “*grace still more beautiful than beauty.*” She was not intriguing in the least; she seemed to love the monarch for himself. When he left her for Madame de Montespan, she refused lovers, and offers of marriage, with disdain. She had two children, by Lewis, whom she tenderly loved; but on being told of the death of one, “It is not that, but his birth,” said she, “which ought to afflict me.” Wishing to expiate her faults, she became a Carmelite, in 1675. She paraphrased the *Psalm* in which David laments his sins; and wrote many religious pieces; amongst others, *Reflections on the Mercy of God.*

F. C. &c.

VAN-OESTERWICK (MARIA),

Is justly placed among the best artists of Holland. She painted only fruit and flowers; but she painted in the highest perfection: she died 1673.

VANPEA-VOLTERS (HENRIETTA), *her Father's scholar,*

WAS born at Amsterdam, and was eminent as a miniature painter. She died 1741.

VAN-

VAN-VEEN (GERTRUDE *and* CORNELIA),

DAUGHTERS of a good painter of that name, who lived at Brussels, both excelled in painting.

VAREZA (JULIA), *a Nun*,

WAS admired for her musical abilities and excellent singing. She likewise wrote good poetry.

Madame Genlis.

VAROTARI (CLARA),

SISTER of a painter of that name, painted to perfection.

VERSIT (MLLE.), *born at Antwerp*, 1680,

KNEW Latin, spoke several languages, and painted portraits and history. The most celebrated writers have agreed in praising the freshness of her colouring, and the purity of her designs. She went to London, and died there.

VIGNE (AMIE DE LA), *born* 1634,

DAUGHTER of a physician at Vernon; remarkable for the brilliancy of her wit, and her elegant taste for poetry. She was author of an *Ode from the Dauphin to the King*, which was very much admired, and soon after received from an unknown hand, supposed the former, a cocoa-nut box, in which was a golden lyre enamelled, with an ode in her praise. She died young, 1684.

F. C.

VIGRI

VIGRI (BEATA CATERINA),

A MOST diligent painter, both in oils and miniature; born at Bologna, 1413, where she introduced the order of St. Chiesa, in the noble monastery of Corpus Domini, which was founded there: amongst other fine paintings, one is much esteemed, of Our Saviour, when an infant. She died in 1463, having lived so that she was venerated by all her acquaintance.

Abec. Pitt.

VIEN (MADAME DE), *a French Lady of the Time of Louis XVth,*

WHOSE history pieces have no inconsiderable merit; her imagination was warm and active, and her colours lively and pleasing.

VILLARS, (*the Marchioness de*), *Mother to the celebrated Duke de Villars, was Marie de Bellefonds, a Lady as remarkable for the Beauty of her Person, as for her Wit and Conversation.*

SHE accompanied her husband, the Marquis de Villars, into Spain, when he was appointed ambassador to that court, at the time Charles the II^d. married Marie-Louisa d'Orleans, niece to Louis XIV, who was particularly attached to Mademoiselle de Villars, though the punctilious manners of the Spanish court, and the jealousy Charles entertained of the French nation, which could hardly bear she should converse with any of them, embittered the friendship that amiable princess entertained for her. During her stay at Madrid, she wrote many letters to her friends, particularly to Mademoiselle de Coulanges, most of which have been preserved; they are written

ten with great spirit, though not in the most elegant stile; but they contain a great number of curious anecdotes and entertaining observations, on the customs and manners of the Spanish court. Mademoiselle de Sévigné, in one of her letters to her daughter, says; “Madame de Villars has written a thousand agreeable things to Madame de Coulange. The Duke de Rochefoucault (who you know is very curious), Madame de Vins, and myself, are for ever at Madame de Coulange’s elbow, to learn all we can.”

Mrs. Thicknesse,

VIELBOURG (LOUISE-FRANCOISE DE HARLEY, MARCHIONESS DE).

No one was ever more esteemed or admired than this illustrious lady. She had a singular taste for the sciences, and was well versed in the Latin, Greek and Hebrew languages. To her literary talents, and extensive knowledge, she united every amiable virtue that can adorn a woman. We are ignorant as to the time of either her birth or death; but, we believe, she was living about the year 1615.

Mrs. Thicknesse.

VILLEDIEU (MARIE-CATHERINE HORTENSE DES JARDINS) *called* DE.

A WOMAN of great literary abilities, and of a lively turn of wit, but who unfortunately gave herself up to the government of her passions. She was born at Alençon, in 1640; her father (Monsieur des Jardins) was provost of the Marechaussée in that town, and her mother had been waiting-woman to the Duchess de Rohan; she had therefore what is called a good education enough,

one

one that gave her language and manner to display her genius, but left her miserably deficient in virtue and prudence. Having formed too tender an intimacy with a cousin of nearly the same age, and fearing the disagreeable consequences of that connection, she quitted her father's house and went to Paris, to seek protection of the Duchess de Rohan. She gained the favour of this lady by some very pretty verses addressed to her; and who, kindly compassionating her extreme youth, not only promised to protect her against the wrath of her parents, but provide her with every necessary, till she was able to return home. Soon after, she was brought to bed of a son, who lived but six weeks; but chusing rather to remain at Paris, than go back to Alençon, she took infinite pains to cultivate her talent for poetry, for which she had already gained some reputation; whereupon, she put the tragi-comedy of Manlius Torquatus (written by the Abbé D'Aubigné) into verse, which was acted at the hotel *de Bourgogne*, with great success; after which, she wrote another, called *Mithetis*, in the same stile, which was not favourably received. Tired of verse, she began to write romances, which were much liked; they are written with spirit, though in a negligent stile. The principal are, *Les Desordres de l'Amour*, or a collection of romances; *Le Portrait des Foiblesses Humaines*, which does not correspond with the title, and is not so well written as the preceding; *Les Exiles*, another collection of little romances, which was much esteemed; *Les Mémoires du Serrail*; *Les Annales Galantes*; *Les Galanteries Grenadines*; *Les Amours des Grands Hommes*; *L'Histoire d'Asterie, ou Tamerlan*; *Le Journal Amoureux*; &c.

Among the number of her admirers, was young Ville-dieu, an officer in the infantry; but he was married. She, however,

however, persuaded him that, as it was an engagement his parents had constrained him to enter into, it was not binding; and he set on foot a process to rid him of his wife; but being too impatient to wait the decision of the law, he ordered the banns of marriage to be published, and went to Cambray to join his regiment, where he was soon followed by Mademoiselle des Jardins.

Whether they were married or not, they both came back to Paris, and appeared under the name of Villedieu; but he left her, and was killed soon after, in the army. She now pursued her literary taste without interruption, and composed many pieces by which she gained much applause; amongst others, the tragi-comedy called *La Favouri*; but the death of a particular friend affected her mind, so that she determined to retire into a convent: she did so, and lived there some time, an exemplary life, till a brother of one of the nuns, who had formerly known her, indiscreetly related to his sister the adventures of Madame de Villedieu; upon which they thought her an improper person to be admitted into their society. She was dismissed, and found an asylum in the house of her sister-in-law.

The Marquis de la Chatte, about sixty years of age, was soon entangled by her charms and coquetry. He offered to marry her, though he had a wife alive in Provence, and she accepted him. The marchioness had a son, to whom the dauphin, and Madame de Montpensier, stood sponsors; the child lived but a year, and its death was soon followed by that of the marquis. She appeared at first quite inconsolable; but it is most extraordinary, she quitted the name of De la Chatte for that of Villedieu. After some time spent in study, she returned to a little village in which her mother had lived after the death of her husband; and there ended
her

her days, sooner perhaps than nature intended, by drinking large quantities of brandy, even at her meals. She died in 1683, at the age of forty-three.

Mrs. Thicknesse,

VILLENEUVE (SUSAN DE), *Daughter of Gaspard de Villeneuve, Baron des Arcs, in Provence; married, 1575, Pompey de Grasse, a zealous Royalist.*

AFTER his death, she defended her castle courageously against the Duke of Savoy, for three days, and then gave it up only on condition it should not be demolished. She was greatly embarrassed in her circumstances, and obliged to earn by her pen those indulgences which fortune had denied her. She was a romance writer of some talents; she died 1755. The following are her works:

1, *Le Phenix Conjugal*, 12mo. 1753; 2, *La Jeune Américaine, ou Les Contes Marins*, 12mo. 4 vols. 1743; 3, *Les Contes de cette Année*, 12mo. 1744; 4, *Les Belles Solitaires*, 12mo. 3 vols. 1745; 5, *Le Beau-frere Supposé*, 12mo. 4 vols. 1752; 6, *La Jardinière de Vincennes, ou les Caprices de l'Amour et de la Fortune*, 12mo. 5 vols. 1753; 7, *Le Juge Prevenu*, 12mo. 1754; 8, *Mesdemoiselles de Marsange*, 12mo; 9, *Anecdotes de la Cour d'Alphonse XI. du Nom, Roi de Castille*, 12mo. 4 vols. 1756; 10, *L'Homme Heureuse*.

Letters on the French Nation, &c.

W.

WALADATA, *Daughter of the Caliph Mostafki Billah,*
FAMOUS for her beauty and poetical talents.

WALKER (ELIZABETH), *was born July 1623, in*
Bucklersbury, London.

SHE was daughter of Mr. Sadler, citizen of London, and had an early sense of virtue and piety, being from her childhood strictly religious. The awful regard she had for the rules and precepts of the gospel, made her very fearful of transgressing them.

In 1650, she married the Rev. Dr. Anthony Walker, minister of Tyfield, in Essex, and those clouds that had so darkened her understanding and disquieted her soul, were soon dissipated and dispelled by the assistance of this friendly guide and director; and she distinguished herself through the remaining stage of her life, in a most amiable and cheerful exercise of Christian virtue: he wrote a history of her *Holy Life and Death*, &c. printed in 1690.

He informs us, that, after her death, amongst many useful and pious writings, he found a large book, in octavo. The beginning of which contains many excellent instructions, and religious directions for the use of her two daughters, who were then living; to teach them how to serve God acceptably, and promote the salvation of their souls. The latter end bears this title. *Some Memorials*

morials of God's Providence to my Husband, Self, and children. Many specimens of this performance may be seen in the doctor's account of her life. She likewise wrote contemplations on the 104th Psalm, tenth verse. To which is prefixed, a large and pious introduction, shewing what were the motives that led her to the following thoughts; which were chiefly the consideration of God Almighty's constant support of the whole creation, and unlimited goodness to all the works of his hands.

The doctor has published, by way of appendix to her life, some few of the directions she composed for her children's instructions, and several of the letters which she wrote to her relations and friends.

Female Worthies,

WARDLOW (LADY ELIZABETH),

IN the edition of *Allan Ramsay's Poems*, 1800, the information most important, perhaps, to men of letters, is that which ascertains the author of *Hardyknute*, which is here justly called an imposing imitation of ancient poetry. The biographer completely proves, that the accomplished authoress of that fragment was Elizabeth, Lady Wardlow, of Pitrevie, in Fife, second daughter of Sir John Halket, Bart. of Pitferron, who was baptized on the 15th of April, 1677, and married to Sir Henry Wardlow, Bart.

WASSA (ANNA), *born at Zurich,*

WAS attached to literature, wrote good poetry, painted agreeably in oil, but excelled in water colours. She died 1713, aged 34.

WES-

WESTON (ELIZABETH JANE), *born about the beginning of Queen Elizabeth's reign.*

SHE seems to have left England when very young, and settled at Prague, in Bohemia, where it is probable she continued during the remainder of her life ; and therefore is better known abroad than at home. She had fine natural parts, which were greatly improved by a polite education. She understood many languages, and was particularly skilled in the Latin ; in which she wrote several things, both in prose and verse, with great applause ; which made her highly esteemed by some of the most learned foreigners at that time, who corresponded with her, and gave her great encomiums on that account. Scaliger was one of her encomiasts.

Mr. Evelyn has given her a place among his learned women. Mr. Phillips has introduced her among his female poets. And Mr. Farnaby ranks her with Sir Thomas Moore, Alabaster, and other the best Latin poets in the sixteenth century.

She translated several of Æsop's fables into Latin verse. She wrote also a Latin poem, in praise of Typography ; which, with many other Latin poems and epistles to and from her, were collected and published under the following title ; *Parthenicon Elizabethæ Joannæ Westoniæ, Virginis Nobilissimæ, Pœtriæ Florentissimæ, Linguarumque Peritissimæ, Lib. III. Opera ac Studio, G. Mart. a Baldhoven, sic collectus ; et nunc denuo Amicis Desiderantibus communicatus*, page 1606.

She was married to John Leon ; a gentleman belonging to the emperor's court ; and was living in the year 1605, as appears from an epistle of hers, dated Prague, Nonis Martii, that year.

WHAR-

WHARTON (ANNE), *Daughter and Coheiress of Sir Henry Lee, of Ditchley, in Oxfordshire,*

WHO, having no son, left his estate to be divided between this lady and her sister the countess of Abingdon, whose memory Mr. Dryden celebrates in a funeral panegyric, entitled *Eleonora*.

She was the first wife of Thomas Wharton, Esq. afterwards marquis of Wharton, by whom she had no children. In 1681, she was in France on account of her health, as appears from several letters to her husband. The next year she held a correspondence by letters with Dr. Gilbert Burnet, many of which are made public. He wrote several poems, and sent them to her. This lady, among other poems, wrote *A Paraphrase on the Lamentations of Jeremiah*, which, as appears by a note prefixed to the original manuscript, was begun at Paris, March 21, 1680-1, and ended April 21 following. Also, *A Paraphrase on the Lord's Prayer*; *Verses to Mr. Waller*; and *An Elegy on the Death of the Earl of Rochester*. Upon which last piece Mr. Waller wrote a copy of verses to her, as likewise another upon her *Paraphrase upon the Lord's Prayer*. And his two cantos of divine poesy were occasioned by a sight of her *Paraphrase on the 52d Chapter of Isaiah*. The mother of John Wilmot, earl of Rochester, was aunt to this lady's father; for which reason Mr. Waller says they were allied in genius and in blood. Besides the above-mentioned, which have gone through several editions, she translated into English, the *Epistle of Penelope to Ulysses*, from *Ovid*. Also *Verses on the Snuff of a Candle*, made in sickness. She died at Adderbury, 1715, and was buried at Winchenden.

WINCHELSEA (ANNE, COUNTESS OF), *Daughter of Sir William Kingsmill, of Sidmonton, Hants, Knt. Maid of Honour to the Duchess of York, second Wife of James II.; and afterwards married to Heneage, second Son of Heneage, Earl of Winchelsea.*

ONE of the most celebrated poems of the countess of Winchelsea, was that upon the *Spleen*, printed in a new miscellany of original poems on several occasions, published by Mr. Charles Gildon, 1701.

That poem occasioned another, by Mr. Nicholas Rowe, entitled *An Epistle to Flavia, on the Sight of two Pindaric Odes, on the Spleen and Vanity*, written by a lady to her friend. A collection of her poems was printed at London, 1713, together with a tragedy never acted, entitled *Aristomenes*. A great number of her poems still remain unpublished.

One or two are in the *Elegant Extracts*. She died 1720.

Female Worthies.

WOFFINGTON (MARGARET), *a celebrated Actress, was born at Dublin, 1718.*

FOR her education, in the very early part of her life, she was indebted to Madame Violanté, a French woman, of good reputation, and famous for feats of agility. From her instructions, she learned that easy action and graceful deportment, which she afterwards endeavoured, with unremitting application, to improve. When the *Beggar's Opera* was first acted at Dublin it was so much applauded and admired, that all ranks of people flocked to see it. A company of children, under the title of *Lilliputians*, were encouraged to represent this favourite piece at the Theatre Royal; and Miss Woffington, then

in

in the tenth year of her age, made a very distinguished figure among them.

She appeared, for the first time, at Covent-Garden theatre, in 1738. She chose the character of Sir Harry Wildair, and acted it with ease, elegance, and propriety of deportment; so that it proved quite fashionable to see her in this character.

Her chief merit consisted in the representation of females in high rank, and of dignified elegance, whose graces in deportment, as well as foibles, she understood, and displayed in a very lively and pleasing manner.

But she did not confine herself to them; she loved to shew ignorance combined with absurdity, and to play with petulance and folly, with peevishness and vulgarity.

As, in her profession, she aimed at attaining general excellence, she studied several parts of the most pathetic, as well as lofty class in tragedy; and resolved to perfect herself in the grace and grandeur of the French theatre. With this view she visited Paris, where she was introduced to Mademoiselle Dumesnil, an actress, celebrated for natural elocution and dignified action.

On her return, she acted with approbation some parts in tragedy; but she never could attain to that happy art of speaking, nor reach that skill of touching the passions, so justly admired in Cibber and Pritchard. Old Colley, her master, who at the age of seventy professed himself her humble admirer, taught her to recite so pompously, that nature and passion were not seldom sacrificed to a false glare of eloquence.

Mr. Garrick's acquaintance with her commenced in Ireland: he became patentee of Drury-lane, in 1747, she was one of the articulated comedians of Mr. Lacy; but, as he brought with him, from Covent-Garden, Mrs.

Cibber and Mrs. Pritchard, she thought her continuing would be attended with disagreeable contentions for characters. She had many disputes with Mrs. Clive; and, by apparent good-breeding, calmness, and sarcastic replies, often obtained the advantage of the other, who was more warm and open. Their contests occasioned very grotesque scenes in the green-room.

After acting a few years with Mr. Rich, she engaged herself, in 1751, to Mr Sheridan, manager of the Dublin theatre. Here she continued three years, and was the admiration of the public in a variety of parts, tragic and comic. Her company was sought after by men of the first rank and distinction; of the gravest character, and the most eminent for learning. She was said to have been chosen president of a select society of beaux-ésprits, called the Beef-Steak Club, and was the only woman in the company.

She declared, that she preferred the company of men to that of women: the latter, she said, talked of nothing but silks and scandal. This was most likely occasioned by her not being admitted to the company of women of rank and virtue; which her own want of character excluded her from. Indeed it appears that, though her charms of person and conversation universally gained her admiration, her conduct was not such as to make her even partially respected.

Mrs. Woffington was mistress of a good understanding, which was much improved by company and books. She had a most attractive sprightliness in her manner, and dearly loved to pursue the bagatelle of vivacity and humour: she was affable, good-natured and charitable. When she returned to London, in 1756, she once more engaged herself to Mr. Rich; and died, about a year before his death, of a gradual decay.

WOLTERS (HENRIETTA), *an excellent Miniature Painter, at Amsterdam; died 1741.*

FROM her love of liberty, she refused invitations to the courts of Prussia and Russia.

F. C.

Z.

ZENOBIA (SEPTIMA), *Queen of Palmyra, traced her descent from the Ptolemies and Cleopatras.*

SHE was taught the sciences by the celebrated Longinus, and made so great a progress in literature, that she spoke the Greek and Egyptian languages, and understood the Latin. She possessed a liberal and enlightened mind; and, at her desire, from some motives (a philosophical curiosity perhaps merely,) was instructed, by Paul, of Samosata, a famous heretic of those times, in the doctrines of the Christian religion. She abridged also the Egyptian and Oriental history. Having married Odenatus, a Saracen prince; when he was taken prisoner, by Sapore, king of Persia, she raised a great army, set him at liberty, and afterwards conquered the East. She contributed to the great victories he obtained over the Persians, which preserved the Eastern empire to the Romans. In reward for which service Gallienus gave her the title of Augusta, and created her husband emperor, 264. Zenobia, when left a widow, reigned with great glory, in the name of her two sons, who were under age. Having conquered Egypt, and added it to her dominions, her wisdom and ability made her an object

of jealousy to the Romans, whose generals she conquered, till Aurelian himself headed the army against her. He defeated her in two battles, and besieged her in Palmyra. She made a vigorous defence; but, finding she should be obliged to surrender, she quitted it privately; but was overtaken in her flight, and carried prisoner to Rome by Aurelian, who gave her a country house near that city, where she spent the remainder of her life in privacy, with her children; consoled by literature for the loss of empire. Aurelian caused her to be led in triumph; and when he was reproached by some, for triumphing over a woman, he replied, that her courage and power had been superior to any man. All historians give the greatest eulogiums to this princess. She was the protectress of the learned, learned herself; a wise politician, and an active warrior. She was a beautiful dark woman.

Porcacchi. L'Advocat, &c.

ZOE, *fourth Wife of the Emperor Leo VI. and Mother of Constantine Porphyrogenitus,*

IN whose minority she governed the empire with great firmness and discretion, quelling the revolt of Constantine Ducas, obliging the Bulgarians to return to their own country, and making a peace with the Saracens. Her ungrateful son, on coming of age, sent his mother into exile, where she died. She is not to be confounded with Zoë, the second wife of the same emperor, who was afterwards crowned empress, and died in 895.

Watkins's Biog. Dict.

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